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BELGIUM AT WAR

Text by

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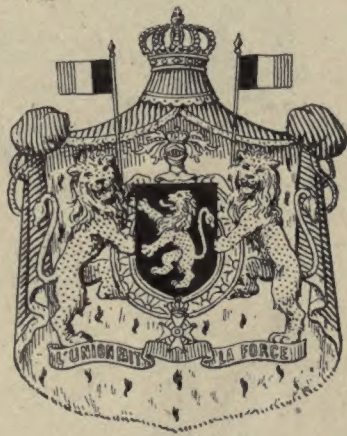
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"HORS-TEXTE" representing H. M. the King and Queen of the Belgians.

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BELGIUM AT WAR

Illustrated Album

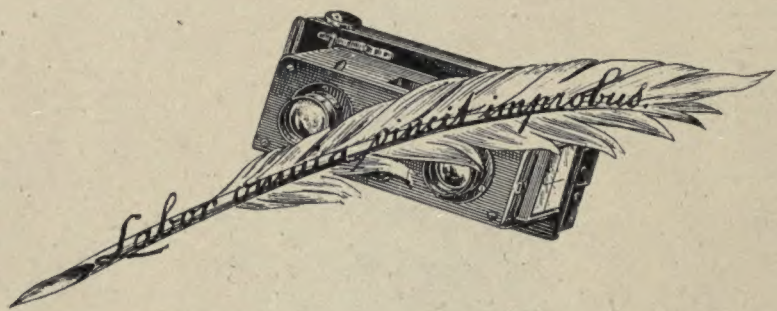


TEXT BY

MAURICE MAETERLINCK

CYRIEL BUYSSE

L. DUMONT-WILDEN



Edited by Ernest Van Hamme



L'Album de "La Belgique en Guerre" sera pour l'histoire de notre pays un document de première valeur.

Par une inspiration heureuse il place sous les yeux les figures nationales les plus augustes et les silhouettes les plus marquantes du temps de guerre.

Il présente la synthèse des œuvres de solidarité et de bienfaisance qui se sont multipliées avec les souffrances et les misères, et leur ont prodigué toutes les ressources de la science et toutes les consolations du dévouement.

L'Album dit en des paroles autorisées et montre par des illustrations suggestives ce qu'un peuple indomptable peut souffrir pour l'honneur et endurer pour le droit.

Des pages accusatrices conserveront à la postérité le réquisitoire vengeur des ruines qui ne peuvent pas mentir.

Des feuillets glorieux racontent l'héroïsme stoïque et silencieux de nos soldats, citoyens et campagnards, bourgeois et ouvriers, flamands et wallons, qui formèrent ce faisceau de leurs héroïsmes pour défendre le coin de terre sacré, longtemps suprême refuge, et pour ensuite reconquérir le sol tout entier de la patrie bien aimée.

Cet album fera revivre pour les générations futures des jours à la fois sombres et radieux, pleins de tristesses et riches de beauté, qui resteront le souvenir le plus noble de la Belgique d'aujourd'hui et la leçon la plus haute pour la Belgique de demain.

C. Corem an

11 Août 1918.

The Album "Belgium at War" represents for our history a document of prime value.

Happily inspired, it sets forth the most august national faces and the most striking features of war time.

It represents the synthesis of charity, and of the multiple solidarity deeds with the sufferings and the miseries, lavished with all the former's resources and science, with all the comforts of devotion.

The Album says in qualified terms and shows with appropriate illustrations how an indomitable people can suffer for honour and what it can endure for right.

Accusing pages will bring posterity a durable and revengeful gathering of the ruins that cannot deceive.

Glorious pages relate the stoic and silent heroism of our soldiers, citizens and countrymen, middle-classes and workmen, Flemings and Walloons, who mixed their heroism to defend the sacred piece of earth, supreme refuge for a long time, and to reconquer the whole of the beloved fatherland.

This Album will revive for future generations days of sorrow and joy, filled with sadness but rich in beauty, days to remain the noblest souvenir of actual Belgium and the highest lesson for future Belgium.

(Translation.)

Ce magnifique Album consacré à "la Belgique en Guerre" est tout à la fois la manifestation d'une pensée élevée et d'un goût artistique qui honorent ceux qui ont conçu comme ceux qui ont exécuté.

Les ruines lamentables de l'église de Reninghe dont la silhouette se dresse au premier plan de la terre d'héroïsme, devenue panorama de désolation sont en quelque sorte la synthèse de l'œuvre de destruction dans laquelle s'embrasent tant de glorieux monuments du passé.

Dans le pauvre cimetière éventré la croix antique se dresse, symbole de l'éternelle justice et gage des plus certaines espérances. Elle a vu le deuil des choses; elle sera le signe de la glorieuse résurrection.

Telle la patrie, ennoblie par son martyre et par la beauté de ses héroïques enfants, resplendira demain dans le cœur des peuples libres et indépendants.

W. Roggeville

This magnificent Album conscribed to « Belgium at War » is together the expression of an ideal thought and an artistic taste honoring those who have conceived and those who have produced it. The lamentable ruins of Reninghe Church, showing its features in the fore ground of the land of heroism, that has become panorama of desolation, are so to say the synthesis of the deed of destruction where so many glorious monuments of the past have sunk.

In the poor ripped up cemetery, the antique cross stands, symbol of the eternal justice and pledge to the surest hopes. It has seen the mourning of things; it will prove to be the sign of the glorious resurrection.

Such is the fatherland, ennobled by its martyre and by the beauty of its heroic children; and it will glitter presently in the free and independent peoples! (Tran)

LA BELGIQUE EN GUERRE BELGIUM AT WAR



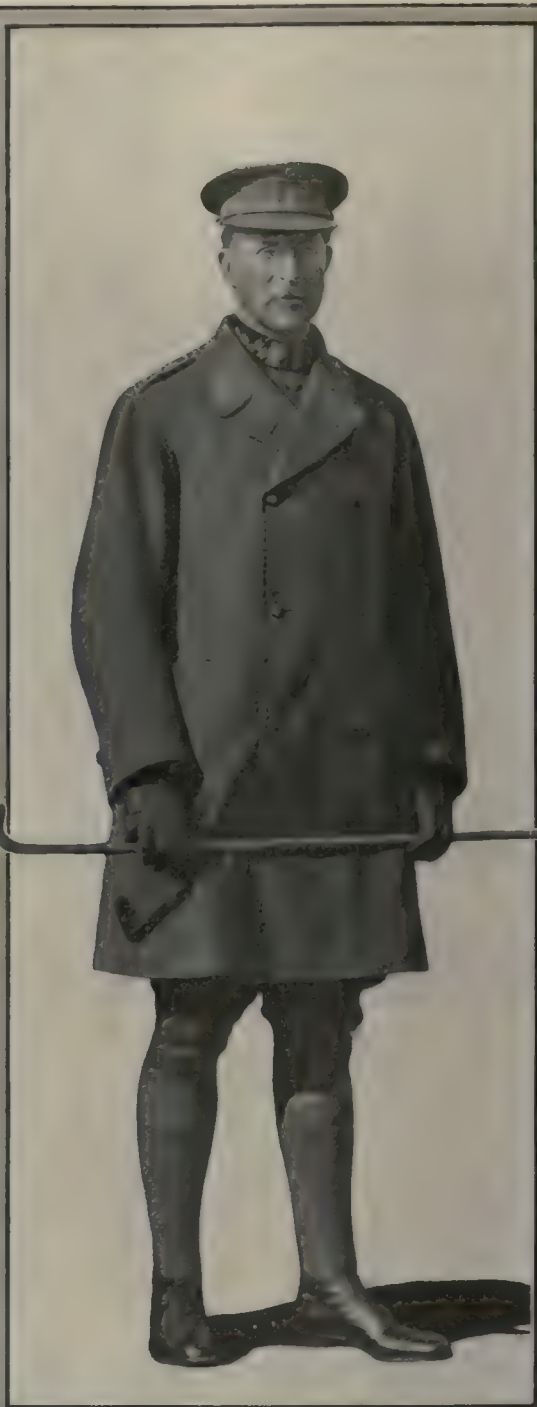
LA FLANDRE EN RUINES: RENINGHE — FLANDERS IN RUINS : RENINGHE

... Hélas ! pour qu'il croulât, hélas ! il a fallu
Qu'un peuple descendît jusqu'au crime absolu,
Et niant la fierté et l'orgueil de la guerre,
Se fit traîtreusement et basement incendiaire...

Alas ! that steeple was not broken until a nation
Was found, alas ! to sink to the lowest of crimes
And, denying the pride and glory of war,
To turn a treacherous and base incendiary !

(Translation).

Luc Berghaeren



Le Roi et la Reine : Admirables et claires figures qui, dans cette crise pathétique de la civilisation, ont incarné aux yeux du monde entier l'idée de Patrie, de Justice et de Droit. Depuis la déclaration de guerre, ils se sont multipliés tous les Deux, vivant au milieu de nos glorieux défenseurs et s'établissant sur cette terre de Flandre préservée de la souillure de l'envahisseur. Il n'est pas de poste dangereux qu'ils n'aient visité et, plus d'une fois, ils survolèrent les lignes. Le Prince Léopold ne les a pas quittés ; le Prince Charles-Théodore est dans la marine anglaise et la Princesse Marie-José à Florence.

The King and Queen, admirably bright persons, have stood out, throughout this tragic crisis of civilisation and before the whole world, as embodying the deals of Patriotism, Justice and Right. Ever since the war broke out, they have been busily at work, living among our glorious defenders, and remaining in that part of Flanders, not polluted by the invader. Not one exposed outpost has escaped their visit, and they have flown many a time over the lines. Prince Leopold has not left them, Prince Charles Theodore is serving with the British Navy and Princess Marie-José is staying in Florence.

A la Villa Royale — At the Royal Villa



Pendant leur séjour dans une simple villa de La Panne, le Roi et la Reine des Belges ont reçu plusieurs fois la visite des Souverains et Chefs d'Etats alliés. 1. La visite de M. Poincaré. 2. M. Poincaré et le Roi passant une revue. 3. Le Roi d'Angleterre et le Roi des Belges. 4. Devant la villa royale, face à la mer, le Roi d'Angleterre décore le général de Ceuninck. 5. La Famille Royale assiste à la cérémonie. 6. Le Roi d'Italie et le Roi des Belges partant visiter le front de Flandre. 7. Les félicitations du Roi et de la Reine. 8. La Reine photographie; derrière elle, les enfants royaux et le Prince de Galles.

During their stay in a plain bungalow at La Panne, the King and Queen of the Belgians have been visited more than once by the Allied Sovereigns and Heads of States. 1. M. Poincaré calling. 2. M. Poincaré and the King watching at a march past. 3. The King of England and the King of the Belgians. 4. Before the Royal Villa, on the sea front, the King of England conferring an order on G. De Ceuninck. 5. The Royal Family witnessing the solemnity. 6. The King of Italy and the King of the Belgians off for a journey to the Flemish front. 7. The King and Queen's congratulations. 8. The Queen taking a royal snapshot.

A Sainte-Adresse

At Sainte-Adresse



La charmante plage de Sainte-Adresse est devenue la capitale de la Belgique en exil. De nombreuses cérémonies y ont eu lieu depuis octobre 1914. 1. L'anniversaire de la bataille de l'Yser : la délégation des régiments belges. 2 et 3. Le salut au drapeau. 4. Le Palais des ministères. 5. Feu M. Schollaert, président de la Chambre, décorant des mutilés. 6. L'hôtellerie de Sainte-Adresse, demeure des membres du Gouvernement. 7. M. Renkin, ministre des Colonies, souhaitant la bienvenue aux officiers retour d'Afrique. 8. Pendant une cérémonie : ministres et généraux belges saluant le drapeau. 9. Vue générale de Sainte-Adresse.

The pretty watering place of Sainte-Adresse has become the capital of exiled Belgium. Many official celebrations have taken place there since October 1914. 1. The anniversary of the Yser battle. 2 and 3. Trooping the colours. 4. The Government Departments. 5. The late M. Schollaert Chairman of the Belgian Parliament, decorating invalided soldiers. 6. The Hostelry of Sainte-Adresse, residence for members of the Cabinet. 7. M. Renkin, Secretary for the Colonies welcoming officers on their return from Africa. 8. Belgian Ministers and Generals saluting the flag. 9. View of Sainte-Adresse.

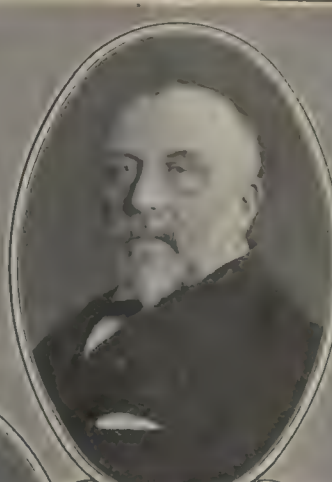
Le Gouvernement Belge — The Belgian Government



M. G. HELLEPUTTE
*Ministre de l'Agriculture
et des Travaux Publics.*



Lieutenant-Général
De CEUNINCK
*Ministre
de la
Guerre*



M. A. HUBERT
*Ministre de l'Industrie
et du Travail*



**M. H. CARTON
de WIART**
*Ministre de la
Justice.*



M. P. HYMANS
*Ministre
des
Affaires Étrangères*



M. P. BERRYER
Ministre de l'Intérieur



M. A. VAN DE VYVERE
Ministre des Finances



M. P. POULET
Ministre des Sciences et des Arts



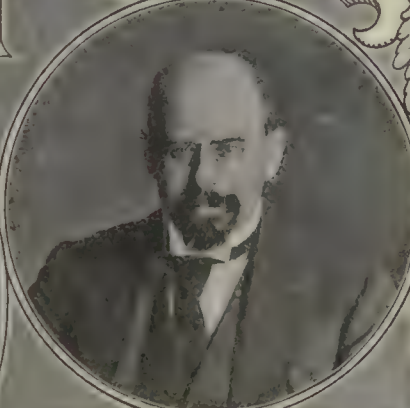
M. G. COOREMAN
*Chef du Cabinet,
Ministre des
Affaires Économiques*



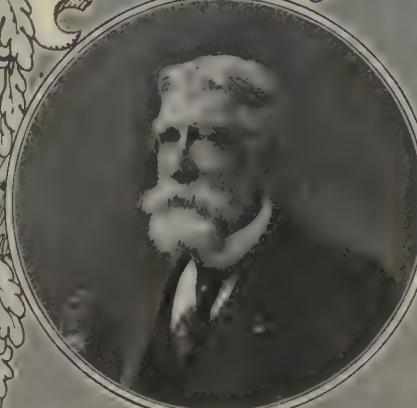
M. J. RENKIN
Ministre des Colonies



M. P. SEGERS, *Ministre des Chemins
de Fer, Marine, Postes et Télégraphes.*



M. E. VANDERVELDE
*Ministre de l'Intendance Civile
et Militaire*



Comte **GOBLET d'ALVIELLA**
*Ministre
Membre du Conseil*



M. E. BRUNET
Ministre, Membre du Conseil

Les ministres belges qui avaient quitté Bruxelles et s'étaient trouvés d'abord réunis à Anvers, après les progrès de l'invasion allemande, suivirent le Roi à Ostende, d'où ils se transportèrent à Sainte-Adresse-Le Havre où sont aujourd'hui groupés la plupart de leurs bureaux ministériels. Depuis le mois d'octobre 1914, le Gouvernement belge reçoit l'hospitalité de la France. Présidé jusqu'en juin 1918 par M. de Broqueville, il a subi différents remaniements au cours de la guerre comme tous les ministères des États belligérants. Il a aujourd'hui pour chef M. Cooreman, ancien président de la Chambre.

The Belgian Ministers, who had left Brussels and assembled in Antwerp, followed the King in Ostend, as the German invasion was in progress; having to evacuate Ostend they moved to Sainte-Adresse-Le Havre, where most of the Ministers' offices are actually gathered. The Belgian Government is France's guest, since October 1914. Like all Cabinets of belligerent States, it has been changed several times during the war, but has remained under the Premiership of M. de Broqueville up to June 1918. The actual Premier is M. G. Cooreman, formerly Chairman of the Parliament.

Hier et Aujourd'hui

Past and Present

Weerde



Tirlemont



Termonde



Hofstade



Malines



Liège



Haalen



Antwerp

Yser

L'ancienne armée belge, celle d'avant l'uniforme kaki, eut aussi ses pages de gloire. C'est elle qui défendit pied à pied nos villes et nos villages, c'est elle qui, arrêtant durant quelques semaines la formidable invasion, s'illustra à Liège, à Haalen, à Hofstade, à Malines, sous les murs d'Anvers; c'est elle, enfin, qui remporta la victoire de l'Yser. Ses vieux uniformes désormais "historiques" sont aussi glorieux que les nouveaux. Nous avons réuni ici quelques scènes caractéristiques de la défense du territoire choisies parmi les collections photographiques que nous avons constituées de nos "soldats d'hier".

The former Belgian army, that of before the khaki uniform, has had its days of glory. That army defended our towns foot by foot, delaying the tremendous flood of invasion during several weeks, earned lasting fame at Liège, Haalen, Tirlemont, Termonde, Hofstade, Malines, Liège, and under the walls of Antwerp. That army finally, has won the victory of the Yser. Its old uniforms, to remain "historical", are as glorious as the new. We are reproducing a few characteristic scenes of the defence of Belgium, selected among the series of photographs we have gathered representing "our soldiers of the original army".

Le Commandement de l'Armée — The Army Command



Jacques



Gillain



Biebuyck



Bernheim



Michel



Drubbel



De Witte



Ruquoy

Le Roi n'a pas quitté son armée ni le sol de son royaume pendant les années terribles où les troupes belges ont disputé pied à pied à l'ennemi le territoire national. Il fut à côté d'elles à Liège, à Aerschot, à Hofstade, à Anvers et il resta parmi elles dans les Flandres. Commandant en chef de l'armée, il est assisté d'un chef d'état-major général qui est le lieutenant général Gillain. Le commandement des divisions est assuré par les lieutenants généraux Jacques, Biebuyck (aide de camp du Roi), Bernheim, Michel, Drubbel, de Witte et Ruquoy. Tous ces chefs ont fait leurs preuves durant la grande guerre.

The King has stood by his army and remained on the soil of his Kingdom during the whole of the painful years spent by the Belgian troops in defending their national territory. He was among his soldiers at Liège, Aerschot, Hofstade and Antwerp, and stayed with them in Flanders. As Commander in Chief, he is assisted by a General Chief of Staff, actually Lieutenant General Gillain. The divisional Commanders are Lieutenant Generals Jacques, Biebuyck (King's A. D. C.), Bernheim, Michel, Drubbel, De Witte and Ruquoy. Every one of these commanding officers is a tried leader during the Great War.

La Garde de l'Yser — The Watch on the Yser



Depuis la fin de 1914, l'armée belge, inébranlable à son poste, monte la garde sur les positions qu'elle a su maintenir lors de la bataille de l'Yser. 1. Un poste avancé au milieu des inondations. 2. Le chemin de circulation vers le vieux fort de Knocke. 3. Une passerelle conduisant aux avant-postes. 4. Un boyau vers Dixmude. 5. Un poste dangereux devant Dixmude. 6. Au confluent de l'Yser et du canal de l'Yser. 7. Observateur d'artillerie aux premières lignes examinant au périscope les effets d'un tir de démolition sur les tranchées allemandes. 8. Sentinelle devant les ruines de Nordschoote.

From the end of 1914, the Belgian army, unshaken, is keeping good watch on the positions it was able to secure and maintain during the battle of the Yser. 1. An outpost in the middle of the flooding. 2. The road towards the old fort of Knocke. 3. A foot bridge leading to the outposts. 4. A sap near Dixmude. 5. A dangerous post outside Dixmude. 6. The confluence of the Yser and Yser Canal. 7. First line artillery observer watching at the results of a destructive fire on the German trenches, through his periscope. 8. Sentry before the ruins of Nordschoote.



THE RESISTANCE



As the years and the centuries pass, the image of Belgium will be seen to rise above this war, higher and higher, innocent, heroic and pure. She sacrificed herself simply and solely to remain true to the faith pledged to Europe. No deed like this is to be found in history. Among the peoples of to-day whom the fortune of politics, of strategy or the will of an enemy, forsworn and blinded by an arrogant frenzy, might have called to face, in honour's name, the countless sufferings that we are enduring and are prepared to endure without regret, there are those who would not have shrunk from treachery, others would have hesitated long, they would have sought, and perhaps found, plausible excuses for evading the sacrifice of themselves to utter destruction for an idea which had so far seemed to be but the birthright of a few heroes rather than of whole peoples. But where are the peoples that, standing at the same cross-roads and summoned to pass through the same gate of disaster and glory, would have acted in so short a space and with the same alacrity as we Belgians? This is a secret which we have no right to probe too deeply.

But it has now become unnecessary to expatiate on the significance, the grandeur and the beauty of our sacrifice. It is known to the remotest island of the Pacific Ocean, and all that remained to be said of it has already been said. Nevertheless it is well at times to recall how long this sacrifice has lasted, with what unanimous and magnificent determination it has been endured for four long years. The annals of mankind record many heroic resolutions concentrated in brief, violent and decisive acts. Far fewer are the cases in which a superhuman effort has been maintained for weeks, for months, for years of suffering, taking no account of time and foreseeing no end. From contemporary history — for the history of the past has nothing comparable to offer — we can only cite the cases of Poland, of Finland, and in particular of Alsace-Lorraine. These states have displayed an analogous but not strictly parallel heroism. Only when a day comes that will disclose things unknown as yet, when a comparative study has been completed of those nations and provinces that have refused to bow their heads, that have remained loyal to honour and to their own past and future, in distress, in hunger, in torments and under the perpetual menace of death; that day it will be acknowledged that Belgium, who marched out to fulfil her duty voluntarily and in full consciousness of the fate before her, has a claim to a special place in the memory of mankind.

We have no details of what is going on at present in our country under enemy occupation. But the little we do know warrants the confidence that what remains to be told will surpass to an amazing degree all that has come through to us. As in all countries that glory has marked with an ineffaceable sign there is growing up an inexhaustible crop of legends ironical or savage, grotesque or touching but always heroic which are only a synthesis of actual facts. They are too numerous and too scattered to be accurately known. One example out of a thousand is the tale of the twenty-four bachelors of St Leger who offered themselves for execution in place of twenty-four fathers of families. This is an admirable epitome of the state of mind of a whole nation and gives us the measure of its ideal and of the deeds which it demands of itself. Though certainty, precision and detail are wanting, we know the main lines of the national resistance within the frontier and without, among the imprisoned on their native soil as well as among the scattered exiles. As in all great historical events, here too, the main lines must fix our attention, for they alone have a definite significance and will determine the judgment of posterity. In clearness, firmness, purity and unanimity these grand facts of the national resistance are beyond comparison and attain, each and all of them, the loftiest and the noblest heights.

It is true that there have been found, among refugees here and among the prisoners over there, certain weaknesses, certain submissions of a sufficiently evil character, certain inexcusable compromises, malcontents, grumblers, profiteers, pleasure hunters, shirkers, idlers, weaklings — all these we have, but, let us add, in far fewer numbers than might have been feared. It is not altogether a misfortune that there should be such people, for a country in which only heroes, saints, and stainless martyrs were to be found would be like a medal without a reverse, it would hardly seem to be inhabited by living human beings, and would

ultimately be considered as improbable as it was tedious. For us who do not stand at a sufficient remove from the picture shadows are necessary to emphasize the planes, the perspective and the relief. But for history they will no longer be necessary and it will take no more count of them than it has done of the weaknesses which cannot but have been displayed at Marathon, at Salamis and even at Thermopylae.

History, indeed, has had to take us into account more than once, more often than we ourselves could have wished. But never so far as I know in all its long course has it seen us so united in love and hate, never has it been called to paint a picture resembling that of our resistance. We distinguish here as never before an indescribable ease, a carelessness, a simplicity, a ready naivete of heroism, apologising, as it were, for its own elevation and reducing it within the homely limits of humanity.

For, faced by a pitiless enemy inflated with pride, stubborn and purblind, huge, lumbering and roughhewn, never recovering from his astonishment at his victim's failure to welcome with joy the opportunity of being like his oppressors, the unexampled and truly individual quality of the Belgian resistance resides in this ease, this union of Flemish joviality with Walloon hilarity, this good temper in time of trouble, of hunger and of peril; it consists in this calm confidence in the future, this almost cynical coolness, this freedom from tall talk and ostentation. There is nothing strained, nothing in the Roman style, nothing romantic or solemn or high-flown in all this. They say what needs saying and no more. They have no notion of staging their sublimity or of advantageously putting it in light. There is no effort to exploit the beauty of the situation. Courage is silent or speaks only the necessary words. Duty is done quietly out of the lime-light because it is duty and nobody imagines that it would sometimes be very natural or even pardonable to avoid its accomplishment. Sacrifice was a matter of course and its consequences are accepted. This is all done with a total absence of self-constraint, of self-scrutiny and self-congratulation. We are not convinced that we are a nation of heroes, we are merely decent people observing our engagements and honouring our signatures. While we know that every nation would not have done what we did, we see too that there is no reason why we should always be harping upon our act and taking up a suspicious attitude of unbridled self-admiration. Meanwhile life is hard, almost unbearable, that life which before expanded in freedom and abundance, in a brotherhood so kindly and so indulgent. Our people are subjected to the tyranny of a crafty, overweening, malevolent, haughty, omnipotent and unscrupulous brute — but happily a brute so thickskinned that the most audacious thrusts have little effect on his besotted and witless arrogance. They endure, they help one another, they organise their privations, they dream smilingly of the coming deliverance. They grow familiar and sport with the dangers the brute has brought in his train, if not with the brute himself. Daily they face the risk of death as though it were but one of the necessary worries of ordinary life.

Such is the character and the aspect of our resistance to the inevitable. I have thought it necessary to define its essential features once for all, for there has been prevalent, in all good faith, among neutrals and even among certain of our best friends and allies a tendency to blur their outlines and to lend them a character which they never possessed. Because this resistance is simple, almost silent, devoid of tragic entries, telling phrases and theatrical attitudes, it must not be imagined that it is tame, dull, timid and spiritless, touching rather than manful. It is right that Belgium should continue to hold her place in the eyes of the world as the chief victim of this war and the martyr to honour; but there must be no tendency to picture her as a weeping maiden devoid of strength, rebelliousness, hatred and resentment, or as a kind of stainless paschal lamb, sacrificed for the salvation of all men and enduring its piteous agony so long that it wears out compassion and haunts the conscience like a reproach or a pang of remorse. Victim and martyr! Certainly, but a willing victim, conscious of what she was doing and going to meet her executioners with head held high, defending herself till she was crushed and inflicting on the aggressors wounds which have not yet ceased to bleed. We have never been, we are not, we shall never become bleating and panic-stricken sheep, appealing for pity. It is by no means pleasant for us after losing all in the performance of our duty to be made the objects of a compassion born of a kind heart, no doubt, but misguided in this case, since it transforms us into mournful and

irresponsible sufferers in a ghastly adventure on which we entered as heroes and from which we hope to emerge as heroes.

We regret nothing, we do not complain and we do not desire that others should confine themselves to pitying us. We only ask that justice should be rendered, that what we have done and what we do daily should be held in remembrance. We were the first who dared to rise against the appalling power that now holds the confederate earth in check, at a time when his mere look and the bare thought of his displeasure or of his approach made the whole civilised world tremble. We dared the hazard in the clear consciousness of our duty and of the terrible vengeance impending. We resisted the irresistible to the utmost limits of our land; and now all those of our people who can bear arms and who have succeeded in rejoining our King are waiting in the trenches, with hearts of hate and eyes of hope, for the word of command to take their part in the mighty struggle for the final liberation.

Within the frontiers, in the vast jail that has been made of our invaded country, you will find the same grim, stubborn, and indomitable resistance. There, no weapons remain. We stand with bare hands in front of an enemy armed to the teeth, facing magazine rifles, machine guns and cannon levelled at the masses of our people who have nothing but their fists, with which to defend themselves. But those fists, though powerless to-day, are clenched and bide their time. The bodies submit to the inevitable with every mark of reluctance; no single head bows, no single will bends, no single vengeance slackens, no single resentment fails, no single curse turns aside, no single face smiles at the enemy, no single thought comes up that does not reject him with loathing, turn from him with horror and put him outside the pale of humanity.

He knows it well though he does not understand it. He lives in an atmosphere of hatred which irritates and baffles him, of hidden but untamable rebellion and of unrelenting scorn. He has not found a single case of sympathy, support or approval except from a few wretches who were bought by him in advance. With his genius for mendacity, the only genius that we all agree to acknowledge in him, with that genius for mendacity which multiplies everything a hundredfold, but, for all his shamelessness, is incapable of creating out of the void, one may

readily imagine the noise he would have made at the least sign of veering, the faintest yielding, the least mark of submission, of acceptance, of reconciliation, of weariness or of intermission in the constant hatred and loathing. What paeans of delight and triumph, re-echoed in chorus by the myriads of his spies with whom the whole world is filled, should we not have heard resounding at the most transient, the most trivial symptoms of a victory over our wills, our thoughts or our feelings, the only victory that counts, that lasts and that bears fruit. He dared not venture on that lie, even he who has not held back from the furthest reach of mendacity. He has exhausted every means, massacres, tortures, robberies, burnings, extortions, deportations, imprisonments and, even that most revolting expedient of all, promise of justice, of repatriation, of good fellowship and fraternity, for he feels himself sinking under the reprobation of the whole world and, face to face with outraged humanity, he needs more than ever some witness to his humane feelings. He has failed utterly. He has not won a single thought, he has not made his way into a single heart, he has not found one head to bow, he has not gone one step forward in his conquest, his only success has been to win more hatred.

This is what we must keep in memory. This is what history must record. Let me say it again, we do not ask that tears of sympathy should be shed over our immense calamity, such tears as fall for a child foully done to death. We are no children. We have no desire that pity should stand in the place of the justice to which we have a claim. We only ask that men should recognise that no nation in all history has done what we have done; that there is none to-day that could have done more, that would have shown such steadfastness, such constancy, such loyalty, such simplicity, such dignity in suffering; that would have held its head higher and maintained under the yoke of death a more rebellious, a haughtier, a more indomitable soul.

Maerluis

THE BELGIAN PEOPLE



When the Barbarians, after the night of debauchery in Hamilcar's palace gardens, came on their way from Carthage to Sicca, through the desert passes that lead into the wilderness, they perceived, in long rows, crucified by human hands against the barren red rocks, the bodies of hundreds and hundreds of lions. This amazed them, they had never seen this yet. And gradually their surprise grew into admiration and with a kind of reverence they wondered what fearless people it might be, that had strength and courage to crucify lions.

When the Germans treacherously attacked neutral and peace-loving Belgium, they expected to meet with no resistance. They, the giants, looked down contemptuously upon the pigmies. But it turned out otherwise. A people arose, that defended their country with the courage of lions.

The enemy, at first surprised, then infuriated, multiplied his attacks. He progressed, but slowly, and at the cost of enormous losses. His rage rose to the utmost, he must and would overwhelm those midges. But when he came to the Yser he was brought to a standstill; and there, like the Barbarians when they saw the crucified lions on the road to Sicca, he wondered, with a surprise that bordered on awe. What nation is this, that fights so heroically for honour and right, and would rather die than submit to the forces of brutality?

It is our nation, the Belgian nation! It is the same race as in the Middle Ages, the race of freedom, of dauntless freedom, peaceful and easy in its wide independence, but at once springing into wild, boundless rebellion against whoever wants to fetter or enslave it. Here we know neither large nor small, neither weak nor strong, only and absolutely the right to live, the being and the will to be such as one is; the original vital power of free, sacred self-determination on our native soil!

We have been turned into a nation of martyrs, but of proud martyrs. Never shall we become a nation of slaves. We want to take our place under the sun again, in the forefront of free nations. And we want it to be a proud place of honour, because our nation is worthy of it, because it has been amply deserved in every field, in science, in industry and art, as well as in ardent patriotism, through rich gifts, through tough energy and through indomitable courage.

In some countries that have remained out of the war, it is occasionally attempted to describe the Belgian people as having been unhappy and divided, as a state where the majority of the inhabitants were bending under the tyranny of an overbearing minority. I will not maintain that everything was perfect in Belgium before the war. There were struggles, and often petty struggles, such as indeed occur in all countries; and much there was that could and must and would have been altered and improved. But, it ought to be said aloud and cannot be repeated too often with insistence and with force that Belgium with all her good or questionable qualities was a very prosperous and happy country as she was, and would have remained so, had she not been dragged into the war by Germany without any fault of her own, and with atrocious savagery.

Remember this, Belgians, whether you are Flemings or Walloons! Remember, and never forget it any more!

The hideous catastrophe that has struck you and turned you into a people of martyrs overcame you not from inside, but from without!

Cyprien Buyse



FOUR YEARS OF WAR



IN a lecture delivered at the Sorbonne on October 23 1916, on the effort of Belgium, M. Louis Marin, Deputy of Nancy, said : « The martyrdom suffered by Belgium has secured for her a halo in history which will be the more touching as this martyrdom was not only that of weakness violated by inhumanity, but of weakness sacrificing herself for Right and Honour. For this reason, the world's conscience will keep its memory reverently and tenderly to the uttermost ages. From the earliest days of the war, this martyrdom and the invasion of Belgian neutrality have defined, not only the position of Belgium, but the full significance of the conflict before the world. The men who formerly looked forward to the formidable possibility of war foresaw it as the decisive struggle of peoples divided for a time by conflicting interests, but the martyrdom inflicted by Germany on Belgium for having denied a passage to her armies showed to the universe that the Allies were going to fight not only for their peculiar ideals, but also for the cause of Right and Honour, for the upholding of the sacredness of agreements, for all that our civilisation is founded upon : the course of the war has confirmed this painful prelude. »

The importance of the Belgian question indeed appears more and more capital in the eyes of the universe and the sympathies awakened by the undeserved disasters of Belgium in the New World certainly have largely contributed to the entrance of the United States on the side of the Allies. This small, industrious and prosperous nation, which was sometimes blamed for its want of idealism, now appears as one of the highest moral entities in the civilised world, and all the calumnies by which the German Government has attempted to justify its crime of August 3, 1914 have not succeeded in ruining its fair fame. In all her international relations, Germany is hindered by the two great historical offences committed by her against the rights of peoples : the annexation of Alsace-Lorraine in 1871 and the violation of Belgian neutrality in 1914. Being unable to make amends for these two indelible misdeeds without humbling herself, she obstinately persists in the hopeless task set to her by unscrupulous politicians, who place might above right.

But not only disasters borne with heroism, not only the moral value gained by a fully conscious sacrifice to the idea of Justice have brought Belgium the sympathy of the great nations fighting by her side. It is also due to her energy in showing her will to live, while struck down by a catastrophe unexampled in history. Only healthy and strong organisms can survive disasters that overcome the species : from the wrestling of peoples that we are now witnessing, only vigorous nations, with healthy and valiant souls will emerge strengthened and raised. Though robbed of the larger part of its territory, though its inhabitants were decimated and scattered, its industries ruined, the Belgian State has nevertheless shown its vitality and its confidence in the future, by reconstituting its army and its Government on a foreign soil and by still acting its part in the coalition of peoples struggling for the liberation of the world. Martyred Belgium is not complaining or grumbling : she relies on her rights and does not beg for pity.

In the workshops and on the battlefields, in the terrorised towns of the occupied districts, in the training camps and at the back, her children show, by their unwearied energy, that they belong to a race determined to live, to grow, to heal their wounds and to act in the world's civilisation a part worthy of her magnificent past. Exiled Belgium has reconstituted an army that has not ceased from heroically fulfilling the arduous task assigned to it ; she is preparing the reconstitution of her industry, and the country under occupation is not content to wait and hope ; it is even at work to-day rising from its ruins and preparing the future. In this twofold and glorious effort, history will see the most evident proof a people can give of its right to live.



BELGIUM BEFORE THE WAR

IN 1910, in the preface of a descriptive work devoted to Belgium, the great poet Emil Verhaeren wrote in a lyrical mood : « The happy hour ! It has struck, it is striking for Belgium. » Indeed, during the latest years preceding the war, no country seemed happier than the small, marvellously rich and prosperous kingdom ; it was wisely ruled, free and peaceful, and its political struggles appeared only as fortunate symptoms of vitality. Except to a few persons who were particularly well-informed about the European situation, no cloud was showing on the horizon. In the event

of a war, which then seemed highly improbable breaking out between France and Germany, the most definite international conventions placed Belgium outside the conflict. The treaty of the XXIV Articles (1831), confirmed in 1839 in the treaty by which Holland recognised the new State, bound the latter to permanent neutrality, guaranteed the integrity and inviolability of its territory, and the Royal Government the more confidently believed itself secure from invasion as it always, had kept with the strictest attention to all the agreements defining its international status. Indeed, during recent years, in spite of Germany's more and more threatening attitude and of the warnings issued from various quarters, Belgium had as much as possible abstained from displaying any fear of her Eastern neighbour, justified as such fears might seem to be. Her inhabitants harboured no ill feelings towards Germany, quite the contrary : the industrial growth of the Empire filled our practical people with admiration and in striving to reap the benefit of their intermediate position between France and Germany, many cultivated Belgians wished their country to borrow from German culture some of its elements. If there is a country in the world that had a right to fear no war and to prepare for no war, it was Belgium, and M. de Broqueville's Government, being more clear-sighted than the majority of the public, had great difficulty in passing in 1912 an Army Bill the full fruits of which, unfortunately, were not to come to maturity before 1918.

Upon this peaceful and happy atmosphere, the ultimatum of Austria broke like the first distant rumbling of a thunderstorm. Yet it was so evident that Belgium's right and duty was to stay outside the struggle that hope still persisted. Down to the last moment, the Belgian Government went on behaving with a correctness that raised it above all suspicion. On July 24 the Department of Foreign Affairs received from its representative at Vienna a message announcing the dispatch of the Austrian ultimatum. The Foreign Minister, M. Davignon, immediately sent to the diplomatic agents of Belgium abroad a letter requesting them, in case the situation became more serious, to hand the Governments to which they were accredited a note announcing that Belgium was determined wholly to fulfil the international duties laid upon her by treaties. She was to remain faithful to this resolution down to the most extreme sacrifice.

From that time, events rapidly succeeded each other. On the 27th, the Government received the most alarming information from Baron Beyens, its representative at Berlin. « War has now become inevitable. » On the 28th, Austria declared war on Serbia. The Belgian Government resolved to put the Army « on a reinforced peace footing », but at the same time it was careful to explain to the different European Governments « that this simple measure of precaution meant no distrust towards any one of the neighbouring powers. » France and England answered this message in the clearest and most loyal manner. On the 29th, M. Klobukowski, the Republic's Minister Plenipotentiary in Brussels, announcing the proclamation of the « danger of war in Germany », added : « I take this opportunity to declare that no aggression by French troops will take place in Belgium, even if important forces should be placed on the frontier of your country. France will not assume the responsibility of committing the first act of hostility against Belgium. Instructions to that effect will be given to the French authorities. »

M. Davignon, still hoping that Germany would respect Belgian neutrality and being especially concerned to take from her any excuse for aggression sent the following reply : « We have always had the greatest confidence in the loyalty of our two neighbouring States to keep their engagements towards us. We have every reason to believe that the German Government's attitude will be identical with that of the French Republic. »

On the other hand, the English Minister declared to M. Davignon that Great Britain expected Belgium to defend her neutrality to the utmost and announced that England had just asked Germany and France, separately, whether each was willing to respect Belgian neutrality in case no other power invaded it.

On Aug. 1, France having at once replied to England's request, the Minister of the Republic again called at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and made the following verbal communication :

« I am authorised to declare that in case of international conflict the Government of the Republic, as it has always declared, will respect the neutrality of Belgium. In the hypothesis of this neutrality not being respected by another Power, the French Government may be led to change its attitude in order to secure its own defence. »

These declarations from France and England were wholly satisfactory, but Germany maintained a disquieting silence. M. Davignon, on acquainting the German Minister, Mr. von

Below-Saleske, with M. Klobukowski's message, added that while having not the slightest doubt about Germany's good intentions, he would be happy to obtain from her an express declaration on the same lines as that of France. The representative of the Empire answered that no official communication had been entrusted to him.

Meanwhile, public opinion growing more and more restless, M. von Below gave an interview to the newspaper *Le Soir*, made himself personally responsible for his country's friendly dispositions towards Belgium and summed up his opinion in the following sentence : « Perhaps your neighbour's roof will burn, but your house will remain safe. » On the other hand, the military attaché, Capt. Bringmann, telephoned to the offices of the « XX^e siècle » newspaper to deny that Germany had declared war on France and even on Russia. Then, on the same day, at seven o'clock at night, the German Minister asked an audience of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to hand him the ultimatum.



GERMANY'S ULTIMATUM AND BELGIUM'S REPLY

THE wording of the ultimatum in which Germany requested Belgium to allow a free passage to her troops and thus to break the pledge given by her to the other Powers is well known ; so is the proud reply of the King's Government. But those two documents in a way stand out above the whole war and help to realise its meaning. They cannot be too often laid before the eyes of those that want to decide who are the responsible authors of the catastrophe that has assailed mankind. « The German Government, thus ran the Imperial note, which was marked *very confidential*, is in receipt of reliable news according to which French forces intend to march on the Meuse, over Givet and Namur. This news leaves no doubt about France's intentions to march on Germany across Belgian territory. The Imperial German Government cannot but fear that, if Belgium receives no help, she will, in spite of all her good will, be unable to successfully repulse a French movement founded on such an extensive plan, in a way that will adequately secure Germany against this threat.

For Germany it is an imperative duty of self-preservation to forestall this thrust of the enemy's.

The Government would greatly regret to see Belgium regard as an act of hostility against herself the fact that the measures of Germany's enemies are also compelling her to violate Belgian territory.

In order to dispel any misunderstanding, the German Government declares the following :

1. Germany intends no act of hostility against Belgium. If Belgium consents to adopt an attitude of benevolent neutrality towards Germany in the war that is going to begin, the German Government, on its part, undertakes to guarantee the integrity and independence of the kingdom in all their extent at the time of peace ;

2. Germany promises, on the above condition, to evacuate the Belgian territory as soon as peace is concluded ;

3. If Belgium observes a friendly attitude, Germany is willing to pay in cash, and in agreement with the Belgian authorities, for all things necessary to her troops, and to give compensation for all damage whatever done in Belgium by German troops ;

4. If Belgium acts in a hostile spirit against the German troops, and especially if she raises difficulties to their onward march through the resistance of the fortifications of the Meuse or through the destruction of roads, railways, tunnels or other works, Germany will, to her regret, be obliged to regard Belgium as an enemy. »

At this brutal injunction, the Belgian Government at once recognised the extent of the peril with which it was threatened. Nevertheless, it did not waver : it wisely realised that further negotiations would be useless. It confined itself to a brief and dignified denial, the wording of which was passed by an unanimous vote.

« The German note, it said in its reply, has caused a deep and painful surprise to the King's Government. The intentions attributed to France in it are in contradiction with the express declaration made to us on August 1 in the name of the Government of the Republic.

« The treaties of 1839, confirmed by the treaties of 1878 (misprint ? 1871 ?) have secured Belgium's independence and neutrality under the guarantee of the Powers, among them the Government of His Majesty the King of Prussia. Belgium has always been faithful to her international obligations ; she has fulfilled her duties in a spirit of loyal impartiality ; she has spared no effort to maintain her neutrality or to secure it.

« The invasion of her independence with which she is being threatened by the German Government would be an open

violation of international law. No strategic interest can justify the violation of right.

• If the Belgian Government were to accept the proposals notified to it, it would sacrifice the honour of the nation at the same time as it would betray its duties towards Europe.

• Being conscious of the part played for over eighty years by Belgium in the world's civilisation, it will not believe that Belgium's independence can be preserved only at the price of the violation of its neutrality.

• Should this hope be disappointed, the Belgian Government is firmly resolved to repulse any invasion of its right by all the means in its power.

• This answer, said M. Louis Marin in his lecture at the Sorbonne, will be looked upon in history as a monument of international law. It settles in the clearest and most definite terms how a Government of honest men must understand the duties of neutrality. On the day when King Albert's Government sent it to the Emperor William, it gave its country a matchless moral position; it raised it before history as the champion of the very idea on which our whole civilisation rests: faithfulness to one's pledged word, to agreements and contracts. If this monument of uprightness and loyalty is compared to the language of the German ultimatum, the distance is measured which separates an honest and civilised people from a nation of prey, among whom moral progress has kept no pace with material progress.

Even Germany was soon to realise the enormous moral damage she had inflicted on herself by committing this crime against the law of nations. In the earlier period, when she felt confident of an immediate triumph, the Chancellor cynically admitted that the Imperial Government had broken international law.

• The wrong that we are committing, he said in his speech of August 4, in the Reichstag, we shall repair as soon as our military aim is achieved. To one who is threatened as much as we are now, and who is struggling for his highest good no other thought is permitted than trying to release himself. We are acting in self defence, and necessity knows no law (Not kennt kein Gebot!) But this wrong decided England Belgium's traditional protector, to enter the struggle and it opened her eyes to her true interests. Then came the battle of the Marne, and victory being seriously endangered, the German Government realised the mistake it had made and attempted to palliate it by calumniating Belgium. By a mendacious interpretation of papers stolen at Brussels, it tried to spread the belief that Belgium had betrayed herself and her neutrality through an agreement with England. In vain! No man could in good faith find any fault with the conversations on record between the British military Attaché and General Ducarne, Chief of Staff of the Belgian Army (1906) or General Jungbluth, who succeeded him (1912) about a possible violation of Belgian neutrality. The whole of Belgium's diplomatic attitude has always been so perfectly clear that Germany's accusations have convinced no one beyond such as were convinced beforehand



THE DEFENCE OF NEUTRALITY AND TERRITORY

The Defence of Liège.

IN the course of history, the Belgians have more than once displayed brilliant military qualities. The levies of the free cities of Flanders have repeatedly defended their independence with heroism. The people of Liège have, time after time, faced slaughter in the defence of their privileges; in later years, Flemings and Walloons have served under the foreign sovereigns and governments that reigned over Belgium, and have distinguished themselves on all the battlefields of Europe. Their records are inscribed in M. Maurice des Ombiaux's popular book: *«Fastes militaires des Belges.»* But, after 1831, the nation trusting in the treaties that guaranteed, nay imposed, neutrality had been somewhat careless about national defence. As it did not believe in war, it had not prepared for war. It will ever be remembered to M. de Broqueville's credit that, in 1912, he procured the passing of an Army Bill that enabled the country at least to make a most honourable defence. Unfortunately, this bill could have borne all its fruits in 1918 only, and while being reorganised the army was far from numbering the 350,000 men to be provided for at that date. Need we add that Belgium had no heavy artillery any more than her powerful Allies? It is therefore the opinion of all military experts that the holding up of the formidable German army for even a fortnight was little short of a miracle. It was the astonishment of the world and will be the astonishment of history that, facing the menace of the German colossus, Belgium should have dared to defend by force of arms her neutrality and territory according to the plan settled as soon as the reply to the ultimatum had been sent to Germany: and this plan has been greatly exceeded since then. The Belgian army has taken part in the whole war beside the armies of the Entente; it has acted an important part and will act it to the end.

The Belgian campaign comprises four main stages: the defence of the fortified position of Liège, the defence of the

line of the Gette and of the position of Namur, the defence of Antwerp and the battle of the Yser.

The German military system has always been founded on the sudden offensive. Accordingly, a few hours after the delivery of the reply to the ultimatum, the forces that had been mysteriously massed on the frontier entered into Belgium, invaded the country of Hervé and spread terror among the peaceful inhabitants. During the morning of Aug. 4, two divisions of cavalry, outflanking the fortified position of Liège on the North, arrived at Visé on the Meuse, but finding the bridge broken and the passage guarded, they withdrew towards the principal army corps, which was already standing before the advanced defences of the great Walloon city. It numbered about 130,000 men, plentifully supplied with artillery, under command of General von Emmich. The Germans expected that, before such a deployment of forces, General Leman, who commanded in Liège, would desist from a useless resistance and capitulate; an envoy appeared before the Governor and asked him to give a passage to the German army. On a categorical refusal being given, von Emmich immediately proceeded to attack and hurled his troops against the forts of Chaudfontaine, Fléron, Evégnée, Barchon and Pontisse. They were everywhere repulsed with such heavy losses that several divisions were shattered and ebbed back into Germany, spreading such a panic that a beginning was made at Aix-la-Chapelle with the removal of archives. Unfortunately, this Belgian success, which was un hoped for, did not last: German reinforcements were brought up in large numbers and started an outflanking movement which threatened with encirclement those Belgian troops that had to hold the intervals between the forts and compelled them to withdraw. The forts, however, held on; the last only capitulated on August 16 and 17.

The German losses outside Liège have been estimated at 42,712 men; much more serious for the enemy was the loss of precious time. The unexpected check suffered by the vanguard inflicted upon the invading army all the inconveniences of being bottled up: the overcrowding of roads and railways caused such confusion inside Germany that the whole army had to mark time for several days, which enabled the French army to carry out its mobilisation and concentration.

While von Emmich's army was held up before Liège, the main Belgian army, having finished its preparations, took up positions on the Gette, a natural line of defence in prolongation, so to speak, of the Meuse. It remained in observation till August 18, fighting several successful battles against the invader, such as that of Haelen, where the Germans were defeated and driven back in disorder. But at that time the whole country of Liège was invaded. More than eleven army corps were facing the small Belgian army, and, irrespective of the corps that were moving towards France across the provinces of Luxemburg and Namur, about 500,000 men were marching on the left bank of the Meuse. The public, who were unacquainted with the difficulties attending the concentration of modern armies, were impatiently waiting for succour from the French and English. According to information supplied by the French command, the fifth Army had a corps holding the bridges on the Meuse between Givet and Namur and the bridges on the Sambre between Floreffe and Tamines; three more corps of that army had arrived in the neighbourhood of Philippeville on the 19th, but they were threatened by three army corps of the enemy extending from Yvoir to Beauraing. The English army was coming to the South of the Sambre towards Maubeuge.

It was therefore impossible for the Allied Armies to link up. The Belgian army, numbering about two corps, remained alone, in close touch with eleven corps and a half. Had it kept its positions, it should on the 19th have fought a battle about whose unfavourable issue there could be no doubt. If assailed on its front and flanks by greatly superior forces, it should have been cut off from Antwerp, where it had all its supplies and munitions. Accordingly, on August 18th, in the afternoon, the King decided on retreating towards the North East with his army.

This retreat caused the fall of Namur, which was unable to stand against the heavy German artillery. The very first shots destroyed the cupolas, and the fourth division, which had been defending the town, had on August 23 to enter upon an extremely difficult retreat through the woods between the Sambre and Meuse; it managed to reach France and from thence was sent back to Antwerp.

The Defence of Antwerp.

ONCE the line of the Gette was forced, the German army invaded the country methodically. On August 20, it was in Brussels. Owing to the wise measures taken by the Government and by the municipal authorities, whose head, Burgomaster Max displayed a civic courage and strength of mind that soon caused him to be imprisoned in Germany, all went peacefully; though crushed with requisitions, the people of Brussels kept their confidence in the future and bore the enemy's yoke with as much good temper as courage. But in the rest of the country the Germans, carrying out the abominable system preached by their theorists of war, immediately started on a horrible rule of frightfulness. Louvain and Aerschot were burned down under the most futile and mendacious pretences, as Visé, Andenne and Dinant had been

before; many villages were systematically destroyed, large numbers of civilians, priests and women were shot down pitilessly, the soldiers alleging that the Germans had first been fired at. In vain the legend of the Belgian francs-tireurs was afterwards invented. The measures taken in the earliest days of the war made an armed resistance of the civilian population wholly impossible, and it is now beyond all doubt that the German High Command really wanted to force Belgium into a premature and separate peace by inflicting martyrdom on its population. It does not, however, lie within our plan again to dwell on the atrocities committed in Belgium by the Germans. The world's opinion is settled, the case has been decided. Frightfulness was a failure, like menace and flattery. Belgium remained heroically faithful to her promises.

Having retreated to Antwerp, the national refuge, the Belgian army seemed to be finally out of the struggle. The Germans resumed their rush towards Paris, leaving only a few corps of the landwehr before the Belgian fortress, from which they believed they had nothing to fear. Though sorely tried by a painful campaign, the small army was soon to show them that it was still capable of playing its part. Within the intrenched camp of Antwerp, it might have remained in idleness and awaited the course of events; the mere fact of its having kept together already was a grave danger to the enemy. But it did not confine itself to this passive attitude. On August 25 and 26, during the battle of Charleroi, it made a first sally, which struck at defensive positions that were already strongly organised, but which nevertheless gave the German army cause for anxiety. On September 6 and 7, at the close of the glorious battle of the Marne, it rendered signal service to the common cause by carrying out another sally which opportunely kept back in Belgium three divisions of the army of observation that was on its way to France in order to reinforce von Kluck's army in its retreat from the Marne to the Aisne. The anxiety caused to the Germans by this new offensive of the Belgian army was so keen that as soon as they settled their front to the North of the Aisne they decided to lay siege to the fortress of Antwerp and finally to rid themselves of an opponent whom they affected to scorn, but who none the less gave them such serious trouble.

On September 28 the Germans, having brought their heavy artillery, the full power of which was not yet realised, in front of the fortress, operations began by an intense bombardment of the outside forts. Those of Wavre Sainte-Catherine and of Waelhem were covered with missiles, and soon the cupolas were demolished, the vaults crumbled down, and the exhausted and decimated garrisons were compelled to beat a retreat. From that moment, the fate of the fortress was settled, for its communications with the Allies were difficult and the garrison were too few to build improvised trenches and works to replace those that were being destroyed, according to the methods successfully applied later on in the magnificent defence of Verdun. English reinforcements came too late and in too small numbers for anything serious to be done in that way. The hopes founded on the entrenched camp were disappointed, and it could not serve as an inviolable shelter for the field army. From that time, then, the high command considered the necessity of proceeding to evacuate the fortress in order to save the army, which might otherwise have found itself constrained to lay down its arms. The decision was a tragic one, for the command was fully conscious of the painful moral effect that the fall of Antwerp would produce. Therefore it organised a serious resistance, while preparing for the field army's retreat.

The evacuation of Antwerp was an exceedingly thorny operation: the whole base of the Belgian defence had to be transferred westwards. Ostend having been selected, the wounded, the prisoners, the various kinds of supplies, the depots of the several units and the untrained recruits of the new levy were removed. The army thus gained its full freedom of action within Antwerp and outside, and might leave the fortress as soon as the town would be regarded as irretrievably compromised.

The defence, in which the English naval brigade bravely bore its share, was protracted till October 7. On that day all the exterior lines of the fortress were pierced; a powerful German army was threatening Ghent and Flanders, which were held only by civil guards and bodies of volunteers. Retreat was still possible, but it became more difficult every hour, for the army now could reach the seaboard only through an exceedingly narrow passage along the Dutch frontier, with very few roads and one single track railway. The retreat was carried out in good order and very rapidly. It began a night on the 6th; on the 7th in the morning, the whole army had crossed to the left bank of the Scheldt. The enemy, however, had crossed the river at Schoonaarde and was sighted at the gates of Ghent. This was one of the tragic hours of the war; at one time the army was in danger of being encircled, cut off from its Allies and thrown back into Holland. Fortunately, the Franco-British reinforcements came in time. The brigade of French marines, under command of Admiral Ronarc'h, and parts of the 7th British division landed in Ghent and took up their post somewhat outside the town, at Melle, where they pressed back the aggressors with the support of two groups of Belgian artillery. Owing to this heroic resistance, some invaluable hours were gained and while the Belgian



Albert

La Défense du Front — The Defences at the Front



Le front belge est solidement établi. Construites dans des conditions particulièrement difficiles, les tranchées belges ont fait l'admiration de tous les spécialistes. Derrière elles, une puissante artillerie dissimule ses pièces. 1. Tranchées de deuxième ligne dans la partie méridionale du front belge. 2. Une relève se rendant aux tranchées de première ligne par les boyaux de communication. 3. Pièce d'artillerie lourde sur rail. 4. Le Roi inspectant le train blindé. 5. Pointage d'un mortier. 6. Une pièce de campagne sous abri casematé. 7. Pointage d'une pièce de marine montée sur roues.

The belgian front is strongly organised. The belgian trenches, although being built under particularly trying circumstances, have many a time proved most effective, and been admired by all the specialists. Behind the trenches, powerful and numerous artillery is hidden. 1. Second line trenches in the Southern part of the Belgian front. 2. A relief party going to the first line trenches through communication saps. 3. Heavy gun on rails. 4. The King inspecting the armoured train. 5. Pointing a howitzer. 6. A field gun under casemated shelter. 7. Directing a naval gun, mounted on wheels.

Le Congo Belge — The Belgian Congo



Tout en organisant la défense de sa colonie et en collaborant à la conquête des territoires ennemis, la Belgique a poursuivi la mise en valeur du vaste domaine que lui a légué le génie de Léopold II. Des mesures ont été prises pour que le Congo qui n'a pas cessé de se développer durant la guerre puisse apporter un appoint à l'œuvre de la reconstitution. Cette question, d'une importance vitale pour le pays, fait l'objet des préoccupations constantes du Ministre des Colonies et de ses collaborateurs. Nos photographies représentent un marché indigène à Kassongo et un des postes de la colonie : Ponthierville.

Whilst organising the defence of her colony and taking part in the conquest of enemy territories, Belgium has proceeded with the development of the vast possession, bequeathed her by the genius of Leopold II. Measures have been taken to enable the Congo, to be most useful to the mother country at the time of reconstruction. This is a vital matter to the country, and its importance is specially engaging the attention of the eminent Secretary for Colonial Affairs and his devoted assistants. Our pictures represent a local market at Kassongo and one of the stations in the Colony : Ponthierville.

La Flandre en Ruines

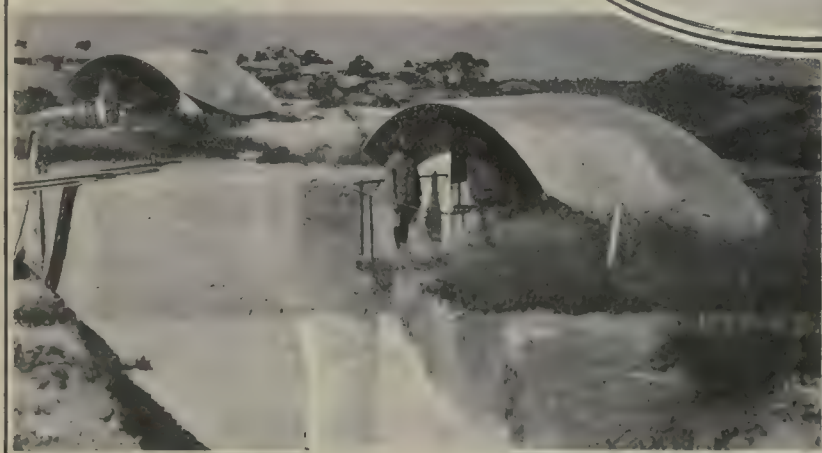
Flanders in Ruins



Toute notre belle Flandre est en ruines. Ypres et ses Halles merveilleuses, notamment, ne sont plus qu'un monceau de cendres. Dès le début des hostilités, les églises belges ont particulièrement souffert. Celles de la Flandre ont fait l'objet d'une destruction systématique comme en témoignent ces quelques photographies. 1. L'église Saint-Jacques-Cappelle. 2. L'église Notre-Dame à Nieuport. 3. L'église de Caeskerke. 4. L'église de Ramscappelle. 5. L'église de Nordschoote. 6. L'église de Reninghe. 7. Le cimetière et l'église de Notre-Dame, à Nieuport. Les tombes éventrées sont pieusement entretenues...

The whole of our beautiful Flanders lies in ruins. Ypres and her stately halls namely, are but a heap of cinders. From the very beginning of the war, have the Belgian churches suffered particularly. Those of Flanders have been the aim of a systematical destruction, as evidenced by our photographs. 1. The church of the Saint-Jacques-Cappelle. 2. Our Lady's at Nieuport. 3. Caeskerke Church. 4. Ramscappelle Church. 5. Nordschoote Church. 6. Reninghe Church. 7. Our Lady's churchyard and Church, Nieuport. The shattered graves are piously kept in good order by our soldiers.

L'Effort Colonial — The Colony's Labour



Tandis que nos troupes coopéraient brillamment à la conquête de l'Est-Africain allemand, l'effort colonial ne s'est pas ralenti un instant : nos photographies l'établiront surabondamment. 1. Le chemin de fer des Grands Lacs africains à la station de Ponthierville. 2. Le travail dans les mines d'or de Kilo (Ituri). 3. Construction d'une voie ferrée. 4. La défense d'Albertville : canons de 160. 5. Un patrouilleur sur le lac Tanganika : le glisseur-torpilleur Netta. 6. Le "Baron Dhanis", construit en Afrique pendant la guerre, est destiné aux transports sur le Tanganika. 7. Le "Ville de Bruxelles" à Isangi.

During the whole time our troops were taking a brilliant part in the conquest of German East Africa, has the progress of the Colony been uninterrupted: our photographs are there to prove it most apparently. 1. The railway running from the Great African Lakes to the station of Ponthierville. 2. Work in the goldmines of Kilo (Ituri). 3. Building a railway line. 4. The defence of Albertville. 5. A patrol boat on Lake Tanganika: the slider-torpedo-boat Netta. 6. The S/S "Baron Dhanis" built in Africa during the war, to be used as a transport on Lake Tanganika. 7. The S/S "Ville de Bruxelles" at Isangi (mouth of Lomani).

La Conquête de l'A. O. A. — The Conquest of G. E. A.



C'est l'Allemagne qui commença la guerre en Afrique comme en Europe en attaquant nos troupes à Lukuga, port belge sur le lac Tanganika, dès le 22 août 1914. Mal lui en prit car tous ses immenses territoires qui représentent une valeur inestimable lui furent successivement enlevés par les troupes belges en coopération avec les forces anglaises. A la carte de guerre de nos ennemis, les Alliés pourront opposer plus tard la carte coloniale et celle-ci sera tout à leur avantage. Il convient de rendre hommage aux chefs qui ont dirigé ces opérations avec un esprit de décision qui a fait l'admiration de tous.

Germany started the war in Africa just as she has done in Europe, by attacking our troops at Lukuga, a Belgian harbour on Lake Tanganyika, on August 22, 1914. This has brought her no luck, for all her vast territories, the value of which is inestimable, have been successively snatched from her, by Belgian troops in cooperation with the English. To the enemy's war map, the Allies will be able to oppose the Colonial map, and this will decidedly prove to be to their advantage. A full tribute of thanks is due to the leaders who have conducted those operations with a determination worthy of the highest praise.

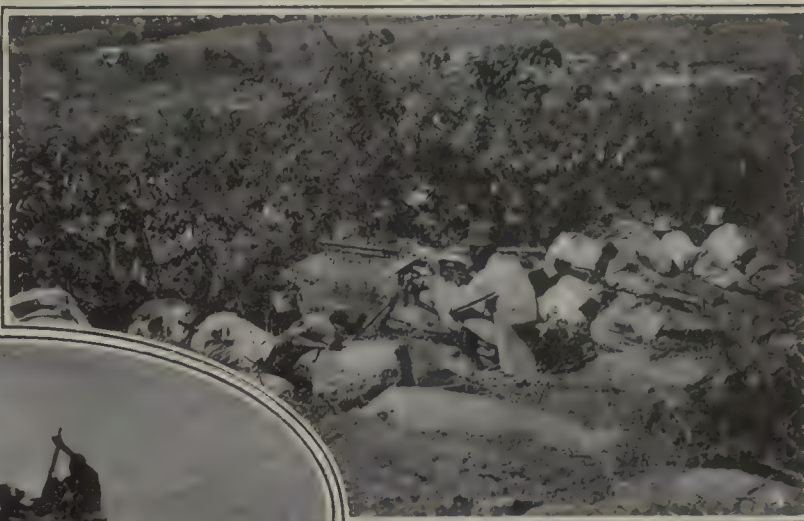
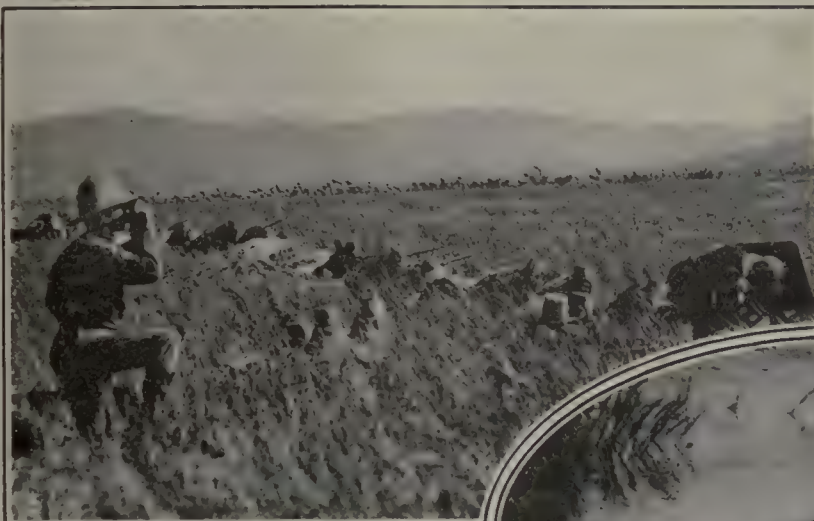
Nos Chefs et nos Soldats — Leaders and Soldiers



La sympathie et l'admiration que les Etats-Majors alliés éprouvent pour l'armée belge s'est attestée au cours de nombreuses cérémonies militaires organisées au front. 1. Avant une revue : le Roi et le G^e Pétain ; derrière eux les généraux Ruquoy et De Ceuninck. 2. Pendant la revue. 3. Le Roi s'entretenant avec le G^e Ruquoy ; à droite le G^e De Ceuninck en conversation avec l'amiral Ronarch et le G^e Roucrol. 4. Le G^e Pétain décore les généraux De Ceuninck et Ruquoy. 5. Le Roi décore des officiers. 6. Les félicitations du Roi. 7. Le Roi barangue les vainqueurs des combats de Kippe. 8. Le Roi décore des soldats.

The sympathy and admiration of the Allied General Staffs for the Belgian Army has been attested by many military ceremonies organised at the front. 1. Before a review : the King and G^e Pétain ; behind them, Generals Ruquoy and De Ceuninck. 2. During the review. 3. The King talking to G^e Ruquoy ; on the right, G^e de Ceuninck in conversation with A^e Ronarch and with G^e Roucrol. 4. G^e Pétain decorating G^e De Ceuninck and G^e Ruquoy. 5. The King decorating officers. 6. Royal congratulations. 7. The King addressing the victors after the engagements at Kippe. 8. The King decorating soldiers.

La Guerre Africaine — The African War



Nos troupes eurent à soutenir de nombreux combats. Chacun d'eux fut un succès pour les nôtres qui, en liaison étroite avec l'armée britannique, ont achevé la conquête de l'Est-Africain allemand. 1. Compagnie cycliste formant avant-garde. 2. Soldats indigènes en patrouille. 3 et 4. Tirailleurs indigènes et mitrailleuses en action pendant le combat de Lulanguru. 5. En reconnaissance. 6. Une batterie de mortiers en action pendant les combats d'Itaga. 7. Une pièce légère en action dans la région de Kilossa. 8. Patrouille cycliste en reconnaissance. 9. Batterie de 70 Saint-Chamond en action près de Mahengé.

Our troops had to fight many a battle, each one of them was a success for our men and finally achieved the conquest of the whole of German East Africa, in close co-operation with the British army. 1. Company of cyclists as a vanguard. 2. Native soldiers on patrol duty. 3 and 4. Native snipers and machine guns in action during the fight at Lulanguru. 5. Reconnoitring. 6. A Howitzer battery in action during the fight at Itaga. 7. A light gun in action in the vicinity of Kilossa. 8. Patrol of cyclists on out-post duty. 9. A battery of Saint-Chamond seventies in action near Mahengé.

Les Visites Royales

The Royal Visits



Les bonnes relations de l'armée belge et des armées alliées se sont manifestées au cours de nombreuses visites du Roi aux fronts français, italien et anglais. 1. Le Roi, le Président de la République et le G^e Pétain au front français. 2. Le Roi décore le G^e Fayolle. 3. Le Roi des Belges et le Roi d'Angleterre. 4. Le Roi visitant les positions prises sur l'ennemi. 5. Le Roi et le maréchal Douglas Haig passant en revue la garde d'honneur. 6 et 7. Sur le terrain occupé la veille par les Allemands. 8. Le Roi et le G^e Horne. 9 et 10. Le Roi parcourant les ruines d'un village. 11. Le Roi et le général Pulteney.

The cordial relations between the Belgian and allied armies have been evinced by many visits paid by the King to the French, Italian and British fronts. 1. The King, the President of the French Republic and G^e Pétain at the French front. 2. The King decorating G^e Fayolle. 3. The King of the Belgians and the King of England. 4. The King visiting positions taken from the enemy. 5. The King and Fieldmarshal Douglas Haig reviewing the guard of honour. 6 and 7. On ground, in German hands the day before. 8. The King and G^e Horne. 9 and 10. The King passing a ruined village. 11. The King and G^e Pulteney.

gunners and the French marines and British infantry were covering the retreat, the army quickly moved towards Ostend. On October 10th, the last fort of Antwerp capitulated, but on the 15th the Belgian army and the marines took up their position on the Yser.

The Battle of the Yser.

ON the morrow of the surrender of Antwerp, nearly the whole of the Belgian army stood massed behind the canal leading from Ghent to Terneuzen. Two lines of defence were possible: the Ghent and Terneuzen canal with its prolongation the Scheldt and, somewhat further back, the Schipdonck canal, with its prolongation the Lys. If the Belgian forces could then have linked up with the Franco-British forces, they might have resisted on either of those lines and thus saved a great part of Flanders from invasion. At that moment, however, the French left was fighting in the neighbourhood of Arras and the British army, which had only just landed, was forming in the neighbourhood of Saint-Omer. Under those conditions, if the Belgian army had made a stand either on the Ghent and Terneuzen canal or on the Schipdonck canal, its right flank might have been turned and it might have been driven to the Dutch frontier and to the sea by the greatly superior forces then kept in Belgium by the enemy: the army that had besieged Antwerp and that was now released by the surrender, and four newly formed corps: the 22^d, the 23^d, the 26th and the 27th. This decided the Belgian high command, after consultation with the French and English Staffs, to retire as far as the Yser. This line offered many advantages. It was the prolongation of the Franco-British front which ran from Lassigny towards Arras; it rested on the sea, where British monitors were cruising; finally, the character of the country lent itself to the defensive.

The country of the Yser is a vast bare plain, covered with rich pastures and fertile fields. No heights impede the view. In Summer, the poplars bent by the wind which line the roads, stretch out their curtains of leaves, and the farms are surrounded with clumps of trees. But from the middle of October it is but a boundless flat and green surface. The patches of land and pastures are divided by moats full of water, which render infantry action difficult, especially as the roads are few and poor. But it offers magnificent spaces for shooting. The Yser, which runs straight to the sea from Dixmude to Nieuport, is not much more than twenty metre wide, but in a land of such a character it none the less offers a perfectly defensible line, the more so as close behind it lies the railway dyke leading from Nieuport to Dixmude and forming a kind of supporting entrenchment. Unfortunately the country is waterlogged and it is nearly impossible to dig and build underground shelters. When cutting trenches, it is necessary to use sandbags.

On October 15th the Belgian army took up its position on the Yser. Its numbers had been reduced to 82,000 men, 48,000 of whom carried rifles. It was tired out by a long and hard retreat, and it might be feared that it would be completely demoralised by the surrender of Antwerp and the invasion of the country. But a royal proclamation told the men that they must hold, that on their courage and steadfastness the common safety depended, and they did hold.

At that time, the French front was strongly organised up to La Bassée. But from La Bassée to the sea the German push preparing towards Calais was to be met only by the Belgian army, to which had indeed been added the brigade of French marines, unequalled soldiers, led by Admiral Ronarc'h the 7th English infantry division and the 3^d English cavalry division, with two divisions of French territorials. During the progress of the battle these forces were still increased with several French corps.

The Germans were acquainted with these circumstances; their plan soon developed. They attempted to gain possession of the Yser from the sea to Dixmude, to drive in the Belgian army, which they considered was the weakest and to outflank the Franco-British left. Hence the importance of the part played by the Belgian army with the French marines. By holding their positions alone from the 15th to the 23^d, then with the reinforcement of the 42^d French division (Grossetti's) till November 10th, those heroic soldiers secured the success of the Flanders battle and made possible the extension of our defensive front to the sea.

As early as October 16th, the opponents got into touch: a reconnaissance was fairly easily repulsed at Dixmude. But events followed in quick succession; on the 17th, the heavy German guns started actively shelling the whole front. On the 18th, the bridgehead of Mannekensvere outside Nieuport was carried by a violent infantry attack, as were most of the advanced posts on the right bank of the Yser. On the 19th, the last bastions held by us on that side were lost in their turn, and the marines who were making a brave stand against the formidable assaults directed at them were called back to the left bank. On October 20th, Lombaertzyde was lost, but Dixmude, although attacked with unheard of vigour, still resisted. The marines, the 11th and 12th Belgian regiments of the line, led by Colonel Meiser and by Colonel Jacques, both of whom now are Generals, vied with one another in heroism and maintained their positions under a violent bom-

bardment, followed by unceasing infantry attacks carried out by deep masses which were constantly renewed.

On the 21st, it was learned that the enemy masses had been re-formed and that a fresh attack, still stronger than the preceding ones, was preparing. Seven German divisions were facing the Belgian army and the marines and ready to fall upon them. In the presence of such a gathering of forces, it became urgent accurately to define the defensive front. The high command decided that the line of defence of the Yser by the Belgian army would stop at the level of Saint-Jacques-Capelle, a little to the South of Dixmude, on a front of 20 kilometres. French forces would come to occupy the space included between Saint-Jacques and Ypres. During the night between the 20th and 21st, the German army prepared its attack by an extremely violent bombardment which extended to the second lines, so as to prevent the arrival of reserves. During the afternoon, the attack was launched at the same time against Dixmude and on the sector Dixmude-Nieuport. The fighting was most determined, trenches taken and retaken, all the reserves engaged. In vain did the artillery mow down whole rows of Germans, they returned in ever greater numbers. About the close of the night from the 21st to the 22^d, they gained a considerable advantage: favoured by darkness, they pressed into the reach of the river at Tervaete and maintained themselves on the left bank against all counter-attacks. The moat of the Yser was crossed and the situation was the more critical as the defending troops were literally exhausted. It was hardly possible to spare the indispensable reserves. On one point, no reliefs could get through and men who had spent seventy-two hours in the trenches had to be ordered to hold on. The Belgian high command had been asked to withstand for twenty-four hours; it had to wait for reinforcements for eight days. At last, on the 23^d, the 42^d divisions, under General Grossetti, joined the line and attempted a diversion on Nieuport. But the Germans, feeling that resistance grew weaker in the sector of Dixmude, redoubled their attacks instead of slackening them. The high command ordered the cord of the arc formed by the reach of the Yser to be held at all costs, by hanging on to the soil. All reserves were put into action and when some troops gave way in their shattered trenches, their leaders carried them forward again.

However, the flood of Germans was ever rising. On the 23^d, the attacks grew more furious than ever; the bridgehead of Schoorbakke was carried and though the positions on the cord were still holding, they were threatened more and more. The dawn of the 24th saw a new wave of Germans arriving on the defenders of the Yser; three assaulting columns, each about 7,000 men strong, marched upon our trenches in close formation and, in spite of the enormous losses inflicted on them, succeeded in occupying them. The dyke on which our men were leaning was carried. A battalion of Belgian grenadiers commanded by Major Henri d'Oultremont, and two battalions of marines, under Commanders Rabot and Jeannot, delivered a desperate charge. They reached the dyke, but before the ever rising flood of German divisions they were unable to maintain themselves. Major d'Oultremont and Captain van Laethem were killed, as were several French officers. The losses were enormous, nothing was now left but to withdraw.

The Germans had thus gained a solid footing on our front trenches; Tervaete was occupied. The troops broke through the cordon of military police of the Meiser brigade and moved backwards. The situation was highly critical. The front was in danger of being pierced and the positions of Dixmude and Nieuport might be outflanked. Colonel Meiser in all haste despatched the first battalion of the 11th Belgian regiment of the line, led by the gallant Commander Descamps, to the threatened point. Those men were running to sacrifice themselves, and they knew it, but their rush was all the more resistless. In front of the German flood, they formed a living dam to hold it back and gave time to four Belgian battalions and to the reserve of the marines to come up. This reinforcement enabled the troops to return spontaneously to the fight. Colonel Jacques was present, running from man to man, stopping every unit that was tempted to move backward, saying: "No, my boys! Always straight ahead, not that way!" His energy impressed every man and they held. On the night after that terrible day, all positions had been kept, though not on the Yser, yet on the second line formed by the dam called the Beverdyk.

All positions were kept, but the reports sent to the Staff stated that "the troops were worn out, that their morale had suffered, that any incident might cause a panic." The Dixmude bridgehead had been attacked no less vigorously than the reach of Tervaete, and an incident that occurred during the night, about one in the morning, showed how precarious the situation remained. The attack on the trenches had then slackened considerably; only a few occasional shots proved that the enemy were still there. Suddenly, in the dark of the night, a troop of some hundreds of Germans, led by a Major, and probably guided by a spy, appeared in the middle of the square. How had they forced the line? Nobody knew, but here they were. They were driving before them with the butts of their rifles, about twenty of our men whom they caught on their way and who only thought of raising the alarm by shouting: "The Boches, the Boches!" Running all the way, the troop reached the bridge on the Yser, no one knowing

whether they were fugitives or enemies. At last, when there could no longer be any mistake, a machine gun planted near the bridge began to fire into the heap. About thirty Germans fell. All those behind them were panic-stricken, turned back and fled into Dixmude to take shelter in the cellars, where our men were to find them at break of day. As for the rest of the troop, with the Major at their head they went on in the darkness towards the halt of Caeskerke, shouting: "Gloria! gloria!" They passed without noticing it, before the house where Colonel Jacques lived for all lights had been put out. A French first aid station opposite, however, was fully lighted. A volley of rifle shots struck down regimental surgeon Duguet and chaplain Le Hellico. Fortunately, at the level crossing of Caeskerke, the troop ran against the gate which there had been time to close. From the neighbouring trenches the marines hurried up, and started firing. The Germans scattered in the neighbouring meadows and threatened their prisoners with death if they would not direct them towards the batteries. No one spoke and the Germans shot them down at close range. Thus Commander Jeannot, of the marines, perished by the hand of the German Major. The raid however, had finally failed. At break of day, what was left of the Germans were surrounded in batches. Several fell under the bayonets of our infuriated soldiers and four were convicted of murder and executed by the Admiral's orders.

The day of the 25th was marked by a stop in the advance of the enemy, who was obviously exhausted. But our side could no more. The Belgian artillery, which had been thundering unceasingly during those tragic days, had been sorely tried. Many guns were out of order, and the ammunition was running so short that the batteries had only a hundred shells left for each gun. The high command then thought of withdrawing the troops a little backwards to the railway line and of protecting that line with an obstacle that could not be passed: an inundation.

Flooding is a classical method of defence in that open country, Western Flanders. Those lowlands have been reclaimed from the sea and from the marshes and fertilised by a system of drainage and irrigation that dates back to the Middle Ages. To put the ground covered by the German lines gradually under water, it would be sufficient to open the sluices in Nieuport that give access to the Beverdyk and to close them at low tide. It was a difficult work, but the Belgian Staff had with them the man who was best able to manage it, the dyke keeper Louis Kogge, who had for many years been in charge of the Beverdyk sluices. Under his direction all necessary measures were taken, and from the 27th the water of the sea began to mix with that of the ditches, oozed up on all sides in the vast plain, sucked down the German guns, drenched the trenches, and imprisoned in the forts the defenders imprudently left in them by the enemy command; they surrendered one by one or were drowned while trying to escape. Gradually the whole front of the second division was covered.

This unexpected ally of the Entente seemed to surprise the Germans, for on the 27th and 28th their activity slackened on the whole Yser front. No doubt they spent those days in attempting to rescue part of their supplies. On the 29th, however, they recovered and now launched their attacks in deep masses on the Grossetti division. The village of Pervyse, which lies a little to the back of the railway line, was seriously menaced for a short time. It might be feared that, under the hail of shells beating down upon them, under the huge waves of field grey uniforms that stormed their trenches, the French troops might be overwhelmed. But general Grossetti was among his soldiers.

In the ruins of the bombed village he ordered an armchair to be brought, and as calm as in his office at headquarters, he sat there for three hours under the bursting shells, directing the battle. "Now, my boys," he said to the soldiers, at my time of life, one can't run. You are not going to leave me in the hands of the Boches?"

The cool bravery of the leader fired the soldiers. Not one stepped back. In vain the Germans launched more than fifteen waves of attack upon the trenches; the village still held. It held until at last the enemy got tired.

On the 30th, the German efforts were directed towards Ramscappelle, to the North of Pervyse. For a short time, the line was crossed, and the village occupied, but the enemy were allowed no time to intrench themselves. A Belgian regiment of the line and a regiment of zouaves delivered a counter-attack. The zouaves went forward, singing the *Marseillaise* and at one rush dislodged the Germans, cleared the village and retook the lost trenches. The line was restored: it was the last struggle of the enemy offensive, which was now finally balked. The battle of the Yser properly so called was over. It had been dearly paid for by our gallant troops. The Belgian army had lost a quarter of its effectives. The higher ranks had been decimated. The 11th of the line had lost seventeen officers out of forty-four, and the 12th, nineteen out of forty-two. The French marines had been more cruelly tried still: they had lost half their numbers, and of the twenty-four naval lieutenants commanding them, twenty-two had been killed. But the road to Calais had been finally closed against the Germans on that side. They were now going to try and reach it over another point. The battle of the Yser was over, the battle of Ypres began.

It was to last till the middle of November. There were still trying hours to come. The old Flemish city was to be shelled without any military necessity, and soon to be turned into a mere heap of rubbish. The French and English troops defending that point were in their turn to experience hard days, but their gallantry and steadfastness were to break the German offensive as it had been broken on the Yser.

Such was the battle of the Yser, the main event of the battle of Flanders. During eight days, 82,000 Belgians (but only 48,000 rifles) and 8,000 French marines had been facing seven German divisions supported by a formidable artillery, and this heroic resistance allowed the Allied armies to win their second great victory on the Western front and to stop the invader's march upon Calais. It has moreover kept unsoiled by the enemy's presence the patch of Belgian territory from which the new Belgium is to be born. No doubt it is but one among several others of the bloody acts in the great tragedy of war, as heroic page among other heroic pages, but for Belgium it bears a special significance: it is *her* victory, the victory that has preserved a portion of her territory, the victory that has sealed her brotherhood in arms with France, the victory where her young soldiers, standing side by side with the best soldiers in the world, have equalled their courage and tenacity.



BELGIUM IN EXILE

Reconstitution of the Army.

THE battle of the Yser was the supreme effort of an army that had already been sorely tried. When victory was won at last, when the roll call was taken and the condition of the supply and of the artillery surveyed, it appeared that a new army would have to be created if a further part was to be acted in the war. It will be an everlasting credit to the exiled Belgian Government, then housed in apartments in hotels, to have undertaken this difficult task and to have brought it to a successful issue. Nothing, moreover, could have thrown a brighter light on the organising ability and energy of a people who, in the most tragic hours of the war, has never known despair.

At the outbreak of war, the field army numbered about 120,000 men, to whom were to be added the 60,000 men of the garrisons of fortresses, composed of older levies and the civil guard, a militia of citizens who were full of good will and patriotism, but whose military training was inadequate. During the earlier part of the campaign and in the siege of Antwerp large numbers had been lost. Part of the garrison of Antwerp had been compelled to cross the frontier into Holland, where about 30,000 men had been interned. As a result of the surrenders of Liège and Antwerp, the Germans had taken about 30,000 prisoners; finally, on the Yser, the Belgian army had lost nearly a quarter of its effectives. Those that were left were exhausted with fatigue, their uniforms in tatters, they had no boots to their feet and the older classes were in such a state that they had temporarily to be taken to the back.

The first business was to fill up numbers. Where could they be found? The greater part of the country being in the hands of the enemy, the refugees had to be called up. With regard to the national laws and Constitution, the Government's position was a very difficult one; Parliament could not be called, as most of the Representatives of the People had stayed in the invaded part of the country. Now the new military law, making military service compulsory on all, had only been passed two years before, so that most refugees were free from military duties. The Government trusted to their patriotism and issued a call for voluntary enlistment. Its hopes were greatly exceeded: not only did the refugees answer the king's appeal in large numbers, so did also the young men in the occupied districts. Although the frontier was kept strictly closed by the Germans, although severe penalties were decreed not only against men who tried to cross the frontier, but also against their relatives, several thousand young Belgians answered the king's call and came over Holland and England to put themselves at the disposal of the Government of Havre. This enabled it as early as 1915 to reconstitute the army in six divisions, plus two divisions of cavalry. However, when England accepted compulsory service, when Russia called up her younger men, when France kept men of forty seven and forty nine with the colours, the Belgian Government decided to go further and by decree of July 21st 1916 published a law calling to arms all men between eighteen and forty years of age dwelling in neutral or allied countries. This emergency measure was a bold one, considering the circumstances. The military laws were intricate, the war industries of the Allies were employing Belgian labour, the Germans might use reprisals in occupied territory, distress was rife among the exiled Belgians and in the free parts of Flanders; all these obstacles made the Government's task more difficult. All of them were overcome. « The wording of the decree, says M. Louis Marin, is a model of precision and clearness: it has succeeded in taking into account the wish to procure all the soldiers needed for the national army and the desire of safeguarding the interests of the families that were suffering from all the miseries of exile. » The new levies obtained for Belgium

by means of this decree allowed her to collect the reserves necessary for holding the front of which she took charge and for the future offensives in which she was determined to take a share proportionate to her forces.

The problem of cadre was no less difficult to solve than that of levies. Of the regular officers that had been engaged in the early part of the campaign, many had been killed, wounded or invalided. The character of the army had also undergone a change, so that the command had to be rejuvenated, and filled with a new spirit.

The problem of cadre has at certain times arisen in all armies in a more or less acute form. It was the more difficult to solve for the Belgian army as there had been a shortage of officers since the beginning of the war. When mobilised, the army needed 5,500 officers, it actually numbered only 3,200. Emergency measures had to be resorted to. The pupils of the Staff College and of the Military School were promoted, retired officers returned to the colours, but only after the Yser battle could a complete reorganisation be thought of. A whole series of schools were opened in France. The infantry had a centre in Gaillon, the cavalry rented an estate of seven hectares in the open country, for the purpose of training the new officers. The artillery was first settled at Audresselles and afterwards transferred to Onival, where grounds suitable for all forms of shooting practice were to be found. Among the young engineers that had enlisted, many could be trained into officers who have since brilliantly maintained the European reputation of the Belgian gunners. Finally, a large number of officers of engineers were recruited from among the refugees in France and in England and from the sergeants of the old regular army; they at once showed their capacity by turning the trenches of the Yser into model trenches.

The Artillery and War Materials.

DURING the battle of the Yser the Belgian artillery had been so overworked that it was practically worn out. At the outbreak of the war, it had been undergoing a complete reorganisation. The siege guns ordered from Krupp's works had not been delivered, and though the field artillery was excellent in quality, its quantity was insufficient. The industry, the initiative and the technical skill of the officers had to compensate for the shortage of guns, in the defence of Liège, in the earlier part of the campaign and on the Yser, and although the Belgian artillery could not efficiently counter the heavy German guns during the siege of Antwerp, it did at any rate make an honourable defence. After the battle of the Yser, however, everything had to be reconstituted.

Half the cannon were out of commission; rifles and machine guns were in no better condition. It was urgent to repair all the munitions that could still do some service and to procure the indispensable arms and ammunition.

From October 1914, workshops for repairs were improvised in Calais; cannon, rifles, motor-cars, military wagons, and harness were set in order. Stores captured from the Germans by French and British troops and put by the Allies at the Belgian army's disposal were made serviceable again.

At Havre, workshops for the making of projectiles were opened in an abandoned factory. Their first duty was to adapt the shell of the French 75 gun, so that it might be fired by the Belgian gun of the same calibre, which belonged to a different type. Gradually, more plant was put up for finishing or filling projectiles the component parts of which were ordered from private firms in France, in England and in America. The Belgian army purchased rifles, machine-guns and heavy cannon, which it wanted badly. Owing to the assistance of England and France, owing especially to their unceasing exertions and energy, the competent services managed to provide the Belgian troops with all necessaries. In the spring 1915, the army, which had not for a moment left the Yser front, was ready for battle. It took a brilliant part in the heavy fighting that occurred at Steenstraete and Lizerne in April and May.

The Minister of War was now able to turn his attention to the complete reorganisation of the Belgian ordnance yards, with a view to enabling them themselves to produce the greater part of the supplies and ammunition needed by the army.

In August 1915, he decided to build the necessary factories in the neighbourhood of Havre. Only the repairing shops were left at Calais. At the same time, a mill for the making of explosives and a small arms factory for the supply of rifles and carbines was put up in England.

The shops at Havre were almost at full strength when, on December 11th 1915 the explosion of the Belgian gunpowder works at Gravelle occurred. Over a hundred victims perished in this catastrophe, which also caused serious damage in many shops. But this cruel stroke of destiny only roused men to fresh exertions. Within a month, all the damage was restored. The original arrangement of the premises was corrected to avoid the return of disaster.

That is why the Belgian workshops at Havre are now distributed over three neighbouring municipalities. They include various parts: shops for building the motor transport, for building artillery, for making projectiles, for filling the ammunition with explosives, for building horse transport; casting works, shops for saddlery, for farriery, for mathematical instruments, for the use of electrical power, for building works;

railway stations for forwarding goods and a special transport service for the whole complex.

The total of the Belgian manufacturing and other shops in the neighbourhood of Havre comprise buildings covering an extent of over 20 hectares. The electrical motive power is 3,000 HP. About 10,000 hands are employed day and night.

The Belgian army makes its own field guns and long guns, it adapts and repairs large calibre cannon, it makes its own ammunition, except the projectiles for heavy guns, it fills all its projectiles with explosives; early in 1917, the filling shops had handled over 4,500,000 kilogrammes of explosives representing a live power of more than 1,800 milliards of kilogrammetres. The factories are supplying the Belgian army with the whole of its motor and horse transport, with all its harness and saddlery, its horseshoes, its instruments of precision for artillery, etc.

Briefly, a war industry the yield and perfection of which are remarkable has been newly created by exiled Belgium, which has thus set a most marvellous example of will power, of initiative and intelligence.

The Motor Service.

The re-organisation, or rather the organisation of the motor services, which are of such importance to modern armies, offered no fewer difficulties.

When war broke out, Belgium owned practically no motor transport. Fortunately, in that busy, industrious and up to date country, motoring was very common and the requisition of carriages, which was ordered on the very day of mobilisation, at once brought a large number of vehicles under the control of the Ministry of War. Only, those vehicles were mostly touring cars, some were delivery vans, very few were heavy lorries, some of the rest were miscellaneous conveyances, such as the hearse which, by an irony of fate, followed the retreating army through all its changes of fortune, and which I last saw standing useless, absurd and mournful in a deserted corner at Sainte-Adresse.

Neither the victualling service nor the medical department could expect such a mixed lot to answer the requirements of a modern army.

Early in the war, indeed, while the Belgian army was engaged on its own territory, the admirable railway system which extends throughout the country, and which is supplemented by the network of light railways, made the motor supply less necessary for re-victualling than it has since become: bulky goods all travelled by the railroads. But this is no longer possible, and in the gigantic work of military re-organisation and reconstruction undertaken by the Belgian Government since it has settled on French soil, the motor transport holds a most important place. The depots, warehouses, and stores of the Belgian army are indeed scattered through the whole of North Western France, often far behind the front. The railway system passing through them is far thinner than the Belgian system and has moreover to do service not only for the Belgian, but also for the French and English armies.

The most urgent problem had to be tackled first, and as soon as the Government was housed at Havre, a large number of lorries specially fitted for military requirements, both for victualling and for ammunitions, were procured from England and America. But as it was necessary to aim at economy as well as speed, means were immediately sought to obtain the best yield from the requisitioned cars.

Then the workshops and garage of the A. C. A. were called into being. It is the unanimous opinion of all foreign officers and engineers who have inspected these extensive yards that, extemporized as they are, they truly are a masterpiece of industrial organization. The A. C. A. not only carry out current repairs in motors that are being used, they not only supply the indispensable spare-parts, they are also employed in transforming the touring cars, a large number of which were available, into lorries and ambulance vans and in making new vehicles out of the remnants of several old ones. At the A. C. A., there is no waste. As soon as a broken car reaches them, they take it to pieces. If it can be repaired, it is. If not the parts that can still be used are sorted out and prepared for the building of new cars. As for the broken pieces, they are forwarded to the foundry opened near Havre by the War Minister and the metal is returned to the workshops. The problem was one of great technical difficulty, on account of the variety of the cars broken by requisitions under the Belgian army's control. All kinds of makers, Belgian, French, English and also German, were represented. Consequently, no spare-parts were obtainable, especially as the French and English works were busy with orders from their own Governments. The management of the A. C. A. therefore determined to make the pieces themselves. Machine tools were at once bought in England and America, and there is now no single part of any kind of motor car that cannot be produced at the works of Sainte-Adresse.

I am using the phrase « works » intentionally, for this military establishment is really like a business firm, where a close control prevails as it should do in State institutions, but where the rules are the application of sound business principles, instead of the stiff regulations of officialdom.

Nearly all the employees are military men: very few are still civilians, but they will soon be drafted into the army in

conformity with the decree that calls all Belgians between eighteen and forty to the colours. Engineers, tyre fitters, cabinet-makers and upholsterers, for the A. C. A. that also includes coach-works, have been recruited from the mobilised men, and are subject to military discipline. Apart from this, they work like hands employed in a private business, not under the command of sergeants, but under foremen chosen for their technical skill and professional ability, irrespective of the number of stripes they wear on their sleeves.

Therefore those hurriedly run up workshops, housed in hastily built sheds, are working with perfect regularity.

It is surprising to see how they turn a damaged touring car into a perfect ambulance van, how new tyres are produced from punctured old ones, how a new chassis is put together out of two bent and worn chassis. In short, although this department has been started since the war, it has not only managed to provide for all the necessities of the Belgian front, but also to prepare reserves needed against a possible coming push.

The Air Service.

At the time of the outbreak of war, the aeroplane and airship service was dependent on the Intelligence Department, as reconnoitring was the only task assigned to the fifth weapon. After the very trying period of the war of manoeuvre and of the Winter 1914, our air service found itself cut away from its bases of supply and was practically annihilated so far as material was concerned. Fortunately, a nucleus of excellent pilot officers was left and had been reinforced with the pick of the nation's civilian airmen. In 1915 it was necessary, with the generous help of the Allies, to supply new munitions to the old squadrons, to create new squadrons, to provide them with the necessary garages at the back for repairing the planes and motors, for training the staff, and for opening a new school for pilots. At the front, all the new duties of a modern air service had to be learned: chasing, day and night bombardments, snaphooting, registering of targets, and later on, coordination of infantry work. From the second battle of the Yser, the Belgian air service has played an important and glorious part and has often in the middle of the fight taken photographs numbering with the finest and earliest documents of this kind taken by Allied fliers. During the years 1916 and 1917, it has passed through a rapid process of growth both in its own importance and in the improvement of its technical means. Its photographic branch enjoys an unrivalled reputation. Its artillery planes have been registering the artillery practice, not only of the Belgian, but also of many Allied batteries, and have known how to accommodate themselves to their various requirements. Among the chasing fliers, whose valuable performances have secured them an undeniable superiority in their ever busy sector, several brilliant personalities have emerged. The Belgian air service to-day owns over ten times more planes than at the time of mobilisation and it is using all the latest models of Allied aircraft. Its engineers are unequalled and have been deservedly praised, for no Belgian aeroplane has ever fallen into enemy hands in consequence of a breakdown in the motor. The supply of new pilots is very plentiful and after three years of war a single call, which was strictly limited as to age and physique, brought enough volunteers in three weeks to keep up the numbers of the air service, at the present rate of waste, during the next twenty years. Strict orders were necessary to put a stop to the stream of volunteers offering themselves! Can there be higher praise for the energy and sporting spirit of the Belgian people?

At present all the branches of the service, the importance of which has been demonstrated by the progress of the war, have been improved and completed. In round figures, the Belgian army possesses: 75 times more posts of wireless telegraphy than at the beginning of the war; 400 times more searchlights of various types; 15,000 to 16,000 motor cycles and bicycles, a complete plant for airships and a particularly bold, devoted and active staff of airmen.

As an example, we may mention that during a period of three months of normal activity, Belgian aeroplanes have executed nearly 2,000 flights, viz. 1,021 for chasing and protection, 544 for registering and watching, 89 for taking photographs, 45 for the army, and 220 for various purposes.

During those frequent flights, many Belgian airmen have distinguished themselves by their heroism and by their skill in fighting enemy aeroplanes, and several have deserved to rank among those 'aces' in whom the popular imagination of the Allied nations takes a pride.

The Department of Supplies.

In all belligerent countries, the prolongation of the war has greatly increased the importance and difficulties of the provision of supplies. It was made still harder for Belgium through the fact that the Government had to settle outside the country. Therefore it was, from February 1916 specially entrusted to M. Emile Vandervelde, Minister of State. His powers were extended by a royal decree of Aug. 4, 1917, which created a Ministry of Supplies and by that of Jan. 1, 1918, which altered its name to that of Ministry for Civilian and Military Supplies.

The Department under M. Vandervelde has not only

to provide food, clothing and bedding needed by the Army, but also to prepare the revictualling of the civilian population when the national territory is recovered from the enemy, and to find supplies for the several Government Departments, as well as for other bodies the list of which is made up by the Cabinet.

For the military, the Ministry of Supplies must not only procure food, clothing, bedding, camping requisites and fodder, it also buys for the shops which retail goods of all kinds to officers and privates at the front and at the back. The shops at the back number 65, and extend as far as Cap Ferrat, in the South of France; their turnover exceeds 20 million francs per annum. As the difficulties of getting supplies have been increasing constantly, a different organisation from that prevailing in peace time soon had to be introduced, and goods could no longer be purchased through private tenders. The new methods came very near those followed in ordinary business. Purchases, totalling 300 million francs per annum, are effected through missions residing in Paris, London and New-York and working hand in hand with the various inter-Allied bodies for military supplies. Once the goods are bought, they are stored by the Department of Supplies itself in its warehouses at Havre, Rouen and Gravelines, which are managed by a special branch of the Department which also has to deal with the making and handling of meat, bread, clothing, etc. The same branch acts as a connecting link between the Minister of War and the Minister of Supplies. This method has borne excellent fruits and has somewhat reduced the waste which seems inseparable from war. The Minister of Civilian and Military Supplies also checks certain Army accounts, either from vouchers or by inspection.

In addition to such official activities, he also controls and manages various funds founded mostly in London at the outbreak of the war and other more recent ones, which have been created owing to the inexhaustible generosity of the American Red Cross. Some of these may be given a special mention. Gifts for Belgian Soldiers, Committee for Clothing Discharged Soldiers, Fund for Assisting Military Men's Households at Havre, Working Men's Fund in London; the latter is entirely kept up from the regular contributions of British workmen for helping Belgian victims of the war, last year, its income exceeded £18,000.

The Medical Service.

At the time of mobilisation, the Belgian medical service was one of the most perfect of any European armies. The hospitals were numerous, well supplied with provisions and apparatus, and conducted by properly trained staffs. The nation had spontaneously offered 30,000 beds for the Red Cross, and Dr Mélis, Inspector in Chief of the Health Department, had under his command 166 regular army surgeons, 520 mobilised doctors, 172 chemists assistants, 148 chemists, 965 dressers and 1,850 stretcher bearers. The Medical Corps had direct control of the hospitals of Antwerp, Liège, Namur, Beverloo, Termonde, Brussels, Malines and Vilvorde. But a large number of institutions for the sick and wounded were managed by the Belgian Red Cross and were no less perfectly organised. On August 15, 50,000 beds were at the disposal of the wounded. Unfortunately, the invasion was so sudden, that the services were completely thrown out of order. The Germans took possession of all military hospitals that lay away from the sea. The Red Cross staffs had to be disbanded, and at the time of the retreat from Antwerp, about the middle of October 1914, the Medical Corps, which had concentrated along the sea coast, had only 2,500 beds for 13,000 wounded. During the battle of the Yser, the confusion was indescribable. Any means at hand had to be used for the transport of the sick and wounded towards Dunkirk and Calais, from which those that were able to bear the crossing were taken to England. Those were painful hours. Nothing had been prepared either at Dunkirk or at Calais, and the concourse of refugees produced such an amount of overcrowding that the services were doubly difficult to organise. Everything was short: staff, instruments, medicines, and shelters.

The Medical Corps displayed extraordinary activity and a remarkable organising capacity. On October 17th, the first Belgian ambulance was inaugurated in a school at Saint-Pol-sur-Mer. On the 18th, the Salon Richelieu, at Calais, was able to admit a large number of wounded, and shortly after the Hospital of the Little Sisters of the Poor was also opened to them. The transfer towards England and Cherbourg proceeded normally and the agents who had promptly been despatched to Paris and London were renewing the ambulance stores of medicines and surgical instruments.

All this, however, was merely temporary. The whole corps had to be completely reorganised. Wonders of ingenuity and expedition were performed, and by the close of 1914 it was nearly in order again. At the present time, it causes admiration among all the visitors that have seen it at work. The wounded are first attended to on the spot at the first aid stations in the trenches, where one half of each regiment's medical staff are permanently on duty. Then they are taken to the dressing stations, then to the clearing stations, where the cases are divided into seriously wounded, who are sent to the front hospitals, and others, who go to the clearing hospitals, and finally to the back.

The French Government has placed at the disposal of Belgium the hospitals of the 10th region, Rennes, which number 31 and contain 5,000 beds; they have been supplemented by the Belgian Medical Corps with hospitals reserved for special cases and containing 2,100 beds. For the transport of the wounded to those hospitals in Brittany, about 600 kilometres from Flanders, a service of convoys by rail have been organised. Eight mixed trains are running regularly between Adinkerke and Calais, nine convoys for stretcher cases and four for sitting cases are running between Calais and Brittany. The rolling stock comprises two hundred corridor cars, each of which can hold eighteen stretcher cases. Owing to this organisation, the Belgian wounded are cared for as well as possible, and since 1915 the percentage of deaths has proved comparatively small: it is only 0.79 per cent.

The character of the soil on which the Belgian army had to fight was such that the sanitary services were particularly important. The country near the Yser has been reclaimed from the sea, it is a marshy region, where drinking water is scarce at all times and where many wells are of doubtful quality. In peace time, the sea breeze that blows unceasingly and the proverbial cleanliness of the inhabitants suffice to keep it healthy. But after the inundation of the Yser had been raised in November 1914, a vast lagoon in which floated thousands of bodies of men and animals extended before the whole Belgian front. All the wells and springs became infected, and as no comfortable camps had yet been established on that water-logged soil, a sudden outbreak of epidemic diseases was to be feared. The Medical Corps thought of the danger in time; a sanitary corps of several sections was formed; quicklime and chloride of lime were generously applied at all dangerous points. Petroleum was poured upon ditches and pools to destroy mosquitoes and larvae; contaminated shelters were carefully cleaned out and the occupants put into quarantine. Finally, the soldiers were encouraged to cleanliness by the building of many shower baths and field laundries. The canteens were supplied with sterilising apparatus, so that the troops should always be provided with an adequate supply of boiled water.

The new training of Maimed Soldiers.

As soon as the problem of training maimed soldiers to new trades arose in France, the example of Belgium was remembered, for it was in Belgium, at Charleroi, that the first school for teaching trades to men maimed by accidents was opened. When M. Herriot, the Mayor of Lyons, founded the first school for training the victims of war, its management was entrusted to M. Bastègne, the General Secretary of the Labour University of Charleroi. Belgian methods have everywhere been applied with improvements and changes introduced to fit various circumstances. When the Government had to deal with the maimed men of its army, it opened a model school, which has already proved extremely useful, at Port-Villez, near Vernon. The Port-Villez school stands on a large estate above the river Seine, which was at once put at the army's disposal by a Belgian resident in the country; it has been arranged by the Belgian Engineers and to a great extent by the maimed men themselves. Forty-two trades are being taught there and all the maimed men in the Belgian army are obliged to pass through it, as experience has shown that in many instances such men are reluctant to learn new trades or to be again apprenticed to the old ones, either because they have lost courage, or because they fear that notwithstanding all promises to the contrary their pensions may be reduced after they have resumed employment. Therefore the maimed men do not get their discharge, but are kept temporarily under military control until they are found finally fit to return to civil life. This control, however, is rendered as gentle as possible. First a kind of psychological inquiry in which they join themselves has to decide whether they are to go back to their old trades or to learn fresh ones. The choice of the new profession is determined, not only by the psychological condition of the maimed men, but also by the social conditions under which they are to live after the war. They are advised to select such trades as offer them good prospects, and, so far as possible, their earlier training is utilised for the second apprenticeship. A quarryman who has become too weak for the pickaxe is turned into a stone cutter, a carpenter into a cabinet-maker, a mason into an architectural draughtsman, an agricultural labourer into a flower gardener. The aim of Port-Villez is primarily pedagogic, the main object is to promote the maimed men's interests and to secure their future. Yet, while chiefly an educational centre, it is also a centre of production. As soon as a maimed man is able to do useful work, he enters the workshop and is allowed a salary. The school works for the various departments of the Belgian State and for private orders and its peculiarity is that it combines the characters of three institutions: a professional school, a workshop and a hospital. Those three features have been combined so successfully that they neither overlap nor hinder each other.

The Port-Villez Institute was created by the State; the Depot for Invalids at Ste-Adresse is due to private initiative. After the battle of the Yser, while the War Ministry was overwhelmed with work and thinking mainly of the re-organisation of the Army, and of procuring materiel and munitions for it, the

invalids and maimed men discharged from the hospitals, not knowing whom to turn to, had applied to Mr. Schollaert, President of the Chamber of Representatives. He asked the Minister of War's permission to collect them at Ste-Adresse in a special dépôt where they could find shelter, food and the medical attention required by their condition. This was the nucleus of the institute at Ste-Adresse, which was settled in barracks prepared by the Department of Public Works for the re-occupation of the devastated parts of the country, and gradually became a school similar to that of Port-Villez. M. Schollaert devoted all his zeal and all his care to organising this work, he had himself collected the capital necessary for housing it, but it is nevertheless supported and patronised by the Government: its methods have been the same as those followed at Port-Villez, and its success has been similar. When its founder was struck down by death, it was in full working order, and it is now extremely useful. It shelters from six to seven hundred wounded men, provides them with employment and teaches them fresh trades.

Another Belgian war work opened in France is the University men's home in Paris. The War Ministry had first created an establishment for invalided soldiers belonging to the professional classes and especially for students who wished to prosecute their studies at Mortain. But the number of these young men soon proved to be insufficient to require a body of tutors and lecturers, and it seemed more expedient to open a University men's Home in Paris. Here the men expecting their discharge are housed and fed at a cost of Fr. 2.50 paid by the State. This hostel is managed by Mr. Emile Brunet, Minister without Portfolio; it is situated in a building of the Avenue de St-Mandé, and contains about thirty students, who are attending lectures in the University of Paris.

Railways.

BEFORE the war, Belgium boasted one of the most complete and most suitable railway systems in the world for the purposes of commerce and manufacture. It belonged almost entirely to the State, which owned and managed the most important lines. But as the country had a better right than most to disregard military preparations, the strategic usage of the railways had been somewhat neglected. Nevertheless, all those who witnessed the beginning of hostilities in Belgium were struck with the regularity and quickness with which the difficulties of mobilisation and concentration were overcome, owing to the devotion and professional skill of the whole staff.

No less remarkable was the boldness with which the system was worked even during the invasion: the lines were kept open to the public to the last, and the trains only stopped at the very limit of the territory occupied by the enemy. Finally, and this is perhaps more striking, the rolling stock for traction and transport was evacuated and saved by masterly organisation. The manner in which it was snatched away from the Germans is one of the most creditable episodes in the Belgian retreat. Down to the fall of Antwerp, nearly all the cars and locomotives, except those that had been run off the rails inside the tunnels which there was no time to blow up, had been successfully moved backward. But when the nation's last shelter surrendered, this gigantic supply of rolling stock was accumulated in Flanders, in that part of Belgium, therefore, where the railway system is weakest. All the stations down to the least shunting lines were blocked with wagons and engines. It was at once determined to clear them out into France, but many single track lines were crowded with retreating troops moving backward and with Franco-British reliefs on their move forward. The system of the French Company of the North was itself overworked with the service of the army and the transport of refugees. As we retreated before the invasion, the crowding grew worse, and under those conditions, only a miracle of energy and ingenuity could save a large part of the Belgian rolling stock, locomotives as well as cars.

The larger part of the Belgian territory being occupied by the enemy, the State Railways' task seemed at an end after the battle of the Yser. But the Minister Mr. Segers at once applied himself to the gigantic work of helping in the transport of the Allies during the war, of preparing for the resumption of traffic after the liberation of the territory and of contributing towards the reconstruction of the country. He has been taking advantage of his years of exile in order to reconsider the whole problem of the transport policy and to inquire into its various parts. Taken as a whole, those measures and investigations may appear as a triptych, one shutter representing the technical management of railways, another their administrative management and the third their relation with the State.

The stock saved from the enemy included 11,400 goods trucks, 1,750 cars and similar vehicles, and 1,929 locomotives. At first, it had been scattered over the various French systems haphazard, as it happened to be rescued. Much of it had suffered great damage on its way or during its long periods of waiting uncared for and neglected in goods stations. After being inventoried and collected, it had to be put under safe keeping and repaired. This has been the object pursued in opening the large yard at Oissel, the importance of which will appear from the following figures. The total superficies of its grounds is 50 hectares. The shunting lines aggregate

45,364 kilometres, and the buildings cover a superficies of 29,907 square metres. Fifteen hundred Belgian railwaymen are daily employed on the repairing yards. A dormitory, a canteen, an infirmary and baths are provided for their comfort. Such of the Belgian rolling stock as is not being used is now wholly concentrated on the shunting tracks of Oissel.

All the locomotives in succession are inspected, overhauled, repaired and set in order. Some are forwarded for use in the Belgian army's war zone, but most of them are lent to the Allies in exchange for a fair compensation and on the understanding that they are to be restored in due time. The French Government has moreover hired the whole of the goods trucks and a large number of passenger cars from the Belgian State. It may be opportune to notice that such transfers are not only useful to the Allies' common cause; they also yield an interest on the substantial capital represented by this rolling stock and left unproductive for some time. Within a single year, they have brought into the Treasury a total of about twenty million francs.

But the rolling stock which has been preserved is inadequate to meet the demands of a normal working of the national system; the yards will have to be filled again and the reserves to be restored. A programme for fresh orders amounting to 140 millions francs has been prepared for the future, and engineers have been sent to America to carry it out. Moreover, the American and British armies intend, at the close of the war, to hand over to the Belgian Government a large proportion of the goods trucks brought by them on the Continent.

So far for the rolling stock. Now for the new organisation at the time when the traffic can be opened again. This will take place in three stages and according to a settled programme; the management will at first be in the hands of the railway battalions of the engineers, a purely military body; from them it will pass to the sections of the field railway and to the Committee for the home system, which are composed of the staff of the State Railway Department. Large depots containing stock worth over 15 million francs have been prepared. A careful census has been taken of the whole staff residing outside occupied Belgium. 6,500 railwaymen are refugees abroad and 10,000 are serving with the colours. Every one is registered and his future duties have been precisely defined. The regulations and instructions for the staff have been revised, reprinted and made known to the men, the lists of fares and freights and passengers tickets are ready. The signalling arrangements have been reconstructed according to the experiences of the war on the French systems. Finally, the management has elaborated a new passenger and goods trains service in connection with the stock and staff available, while a rational and quick expansion is provided for. The harnessing of the Belgian lines with electrical plants will be one of the fundamental problems of reconstruction. It is being investigated by a body of Belgian and foreign experts, whose inquiries are already far advanced. When the time for final decision comes, the information collected by them will be found invaluable.

The Fleet.

A Ministry of Marine having been founded in 1912, Belgium began to pay the necessary attention to shipping problems. Since the war the care for re-victualling the inhabitants and the army and the thought of the coming economic struggle have rapidly brought those questions into the front rank in all belligerent countries. In this field also it was therefore necessary to innovate quickly, to create new services, to improve and to extend existing services. Owing to the energy and initiative of M. Segers, Minister of Railways of Marine, of the Post and Telegraph Office, and of his assistants, all the necessities of the present have been met and the future has been safeguarded.

During the earlier part of the campaign the services of the fleet proceeded normally, but as soon as the siege of Antwerp began and in spite of all the hopes that had been cherished at first, the measures to be taken in case of evacuation were examined with a care and caution that are beyond all praise. Owing to this providence and industry, all the shipping of the country, cargo and passenger boats, pilot and lightships, tugs, avisos, in all 52 units, were able to retire to England and France in good order when the signal for retreat was given. Our last ship left Ostend on the very day when the Germans arrived there, and when their outposts entered the town, they only found some old ships which were left behind because they were unseaworthy.

It was largely owing to the State fleet that the unfortunate people that fled before the invasion were able to reach France and England. First when Antwerp was given up, later, when Ostend was evacuated, the ships of the Government removed thousands and thousands of refugees. Since the war has settled down into the trenches, the various services, except those of river and coastwise navigation, have been re-constituted in the Allied ports, where the administration of marine is actively busy. Headquarters are at Havre, branches in London, Milford Haven, Lowestoft, Calais, Dieppe, La Panne and Flushing. The unexpected demands made upon the Department have been rapidly and successfully met.

From the early days of the battle of the Yser, our mail steamers had to play a new part, in which they have continued to this day, as transports in the service of the Allied armies.

Some of them have been turned into hospital ships. One of the latter, the Marie-Henriette, was sunk on October 25th, 1914, but without loss of life.

To speak of the sea-going fishing fleet is to relate the painful story of the inhabitants of the Flemish coast, who were torn from their homes in their thousands and scattered in English, French and Dutch harbours. There especially the Government had to exercise its care acting in conjunction with the local authorities. Owing to this action and to local committees of relief, the first distress was met, licences for fishing were granted, boats that had been neglected were re-fitted, advances of money were offered to fishermen for the purchase of tackle, nets etc. At the present day, in spite of the restriction of navigation and of the risks of the trade, which have been increased by the sowing of mines and by submarine attacks, several colonies of Belgian fishermen are doing very well in English and French ports.

In no respect, however, had the administration to act more vigorously than in dealing with the merchant fleet, and nowhere have new experiments been more necessary.

An entirely novel situation demanded measures of a new kind. Not only had the interests of the Belgian shipowners who emigrated to England with their fleet to be defended by a bold policy, adapting to Belgian requirements the laws passed by our Allies; in many instances the authorities had to act on their own initiative, as they did when the transfer of ships to other flags was prohibited by the decree of February 23, 1915.

It is impossible here to quote all the measures taken in this connection. The principal ones were concerned with the State insurance of ships against war risks, with the issue of passes, with the establishment in London of an office for the mortgaging of ships, with the amendment of the bye-laws of the Provident and Relief Fund in favour of sailors sailing under the Belgian flag, with the granting of officers' certificates in the merchant fleet, with the State guarantee for the purchase by Belgian owners of steamers brought into British Prize Courts, with the requisitioning of ships, with the upkeep of fishing vessels and with the trial of offences committed on sea-going ships.

A special mention must be made of the creation, in the midst of the war, of the Royal Belgian Lloyd Navigation Company, which means the beginning of a new era in shipping affairs, and which will have a great part to play in the future growth of the national merchant fleet. Through the foundation of this shipping firm under Government supervision, it has been possible from the first to collect a fleet of 39 units, belonging to companies managed by Messrs Brys and Gylsen, and it may be foreseen that the new Navigation Company's powerful financial means will soon be able to raise it to 100 or 150 vessels. The first object of the Minister of Railways, Marine, Post and Telegraph Office, was to assist the Belgian Relief Committee by supplying the tonnage that it lacked. The foundation of the Lloyd was also intended to prevent the sale of 24 ships, with a total tonnage of 159,000 tons, which flew the British flag, but will ultimately be transferred to the Belgian flag, and whose help may be relied upon for re-victualling Belgium after its liberation. Finally, it is hoped to give the country the mastery of its sea-going traffic after the war, especially by excluding enemy shipowners and by putting in their place Belgian shipping concerns, as provided in the laws of the new company. The firm is bound by the same laws to be Belgian in its capital, in its management and in its action. In the preparation of economic problems of reconstruction, the Department of Marine has also been very busy and various committees appointed from its staff have considered questions of maritime transport.

Thanks to this whole series of measures, our merchant fleet, which seemed doomed to certain ruin at the beginning of the war, has been able to preserve a strong vitality, notwithstanding the unceasing difficulties with which it has been struggling to this day, and this is a most encouraging fact.

Still the war has caused many grave losses. About thirty of our ships have been sunk by enemy submarines, taking over 200 Belgian sailors to the bottom of the sea.

This brief survey of the work done by the Department of Marine would not be complete if no mention were made of the decisive part played by Belgian steamers in the work of the « Committee for Relief in Belgium ».

The Department has done everything in its power to lend its aid to this humane work. In consequence of an agreement made with the shipowners in January 1916, an important percentage of the Belgian tonnage was placed at its command. But as the necessity became more pressing, the Government during the following month issued a decree empowering it to requisition the whole of the national merchant fleet. From that time, all the Belgian ships not used for the service of the army have been used exclusively for the transport work of the Committee for Relief in Belgium.

As for the assistance given by the Belgian fleet for the provisioning of our army, let it suffice to state that since the Department of Marine has been entrusted with the organisation of the State's maritime traffic, more than 900,000 tons of miscellaneous goods, more than 160,000 cubic metres of wood, more than 10,000 horses, not to mention oils and petrols, have been brought into French ports under its management.



Réorganisé en pleine guerre, notre Service de Santé est un des plus parfaits qu'il y ait parmi les belligérants. 1. Un poste de secours : évacuation d'un blessé. 2 et 3. Arrivée d'un blessé à l'infirmerie de campagne. 4. Le Roi d'Italie et le Roi des Belges visitent l'hôpital de Hoogstade guidés par le D' Willems. 5. Les hôpitaux du front : Cabour. 6. La Reine visite l'hôpital de l'Océan guidée par le D' Depage. 7. Les hôpitaux de l'arrière. Au Havre : le laboratoire : le L' Dandoy à l'analyse et le D' Dujardin au microscope. 8. La consultation du D' Rasquin. 10 et 11. A Londres : le King Albert's. Au centre : le D' Méhès I.G.S.S.

Our medical service has had to be reorganised during the war, and it is as near to perfection as any other among the belligerent nations. 1. A first aid station. A wounded man being removed. 2 and 3. A wounded soldier arriving at the field infirmary. 4. The King of Italy and the King of the Belgians visiting the hospital at Hoogstade guided by D' Willems. 5. The Hospitals at the front : Cabour. 6. The Queen visiting the Ocean Hospital at La Panne guided by D' Depage. 7. Hospitals at the back. Havre : The laboratory. 8. D' Rasquin's consulting room. 10 and 11. In London : King Albert's Hospital. In the centre, D' Méhès, I.G.S.S.

Les Centres d'Instruction — The Training Camps



C'est dans les centres d'Instruction que se forment les recrues de la nouvelle armée. 1. L'exercice au C. I. de cavalerie de Guisnes. 2. Une revue au C. I. de Honfleur. 3. Défilé d'une batterie au C. I. de Eu. 4. Exercices au C. I. de Carantan. 5. Le L.-G. de Selliers de Moranville, Inspecteur général de l'armée. 6. Défilé au C. I. de Parigné-l'Évêque. 7. Exercices au C. I. des mitrailleuses de Criel-sur-Mer. 8. La critique des opérations par le lieutenant-général Bertrand. 9. Exercices d'artillerie au C. I. de Cravelines. 10. Exercices de reconnaissances au C. I. des autos blindées. 11 et 12. L'enseignement au C. I. d'aviation.

The recruits of the new army are being trained in the Training Camps. 1. Cavalry drill in the camp at Guisnes. 2. A review in the camp of Honfleur. 3. A battery defiling in the camp of Eu. 4. Drill in the camp of Carantan. 5. Lieutenant-General de Selliers de Moranville, Inspector General of the Army. 6. A march past in the camp of Parigné-l'Évêque. 7. Machine gun drill in Criel-sur-Mer. 8. Criticism of operations by Lieutenant-General Bertrand. 9. Artillery drill in the camp of Cravelines. 10. Reconnoitring at the camp for armoured cars. 11 and 12. Instruction in the airmen's camp.

La Rééducation des Mutilés

Training of Maimed Men



L'Institut militaire des Invalides et Orphelins de la guerre de Port-Villez, fondé par le Gouvernement belge en 1915, est un des premiers instituts de rééducation des mutilés qui aient été créés. Il est considéré comme un établissement modèle. 1. L'aménagement des routes de l'Institut par les mutilés eux-mêmes. 2. Section d'horticulture. 3. Les auxiliaires du génie au travail dans la carrière de l'Institut. 4. L'exploitation forestière. Les chevaux de la ferme à l'abreuvoir. 6. L'atelier de peinture : imitation de bois et marbres. 7. L'atelier de peinture décorative. 8. L'atelier de peinture sur verre. 9. L'atelier d'ajustage.

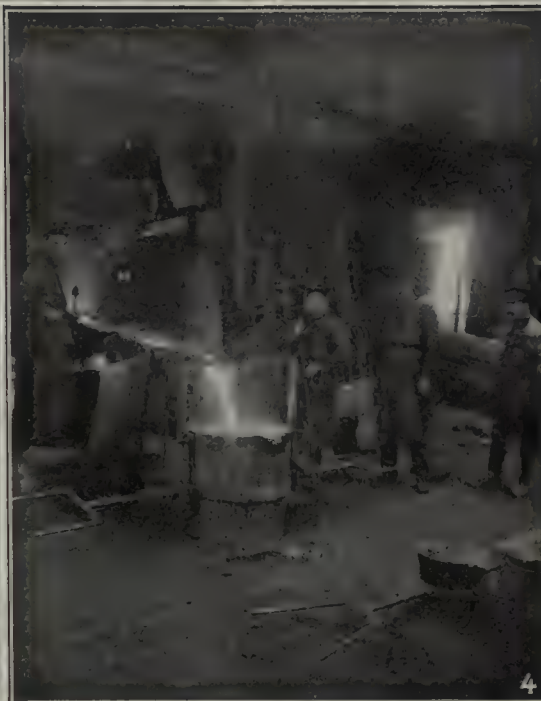
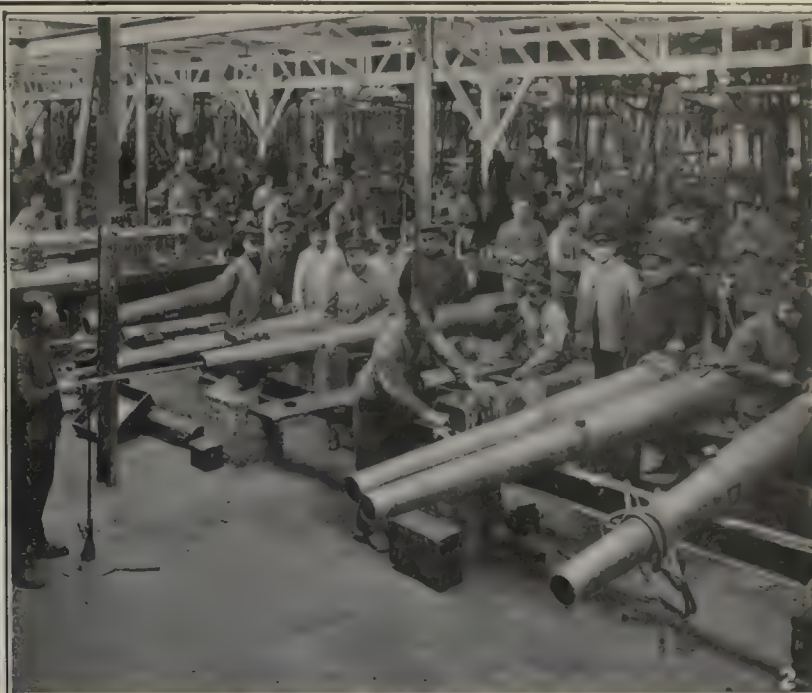
The military Institute for Invalids and War Orphans at Port-Villez, founded in 1915 by the Belgian Government, has been one of the first schools for the training of crippled men, and opened during the war. It is generally regarded as a model school. 1. The roads being arranged by the crippled themselves. 2. The gardening section. 3. Auxiliary engineers at work in the Institute's quarry. Woodmen at work 5. Watering the farmhorses. 6. The painting shop : imitating woods and marbles. 7. Workshop for decorative painting. 8. Workshop for glass painting. 9. Fitting shop.

Les Services d'Intendance — The Department of Supplies



Les services de l'Intendance civile et militaire sont l'objet des soins les plus attentifs et rien n'est négligé pour assurer leur parfait fonctionnement. 1. Au ministère de l'Intendance à Sainte-Adresse : M. le ministre Emile Vandervelde et ses collaborateurs. 2. Une des bases de ravitaillement de l'armée dans le nord de la France. 3. Un dépôt d'essence pour automobiles. 4. Le chargement d'un des nombreux trains de ravitaillement partant chaque jour pour le front. 5 et 6. Vues extérieure et intérieure d'une boulangerie de campagne. 7. La préparation d'un lot de bétail destiné au ravitaillement de l'armée de campagne.

The Civilian and Military supply Department is being most carefully managed and nothing is neglected to secure perfect work. 1. At the Ministry of Supplies at Sainte-Adresse : Monsieur le Ministre Vandervelde and his assistants. 2. One of the numerous Army Supply Depots in Northern France. 3. Petrol dumps for the motor service. 4. One of the numerous supply trains that start for the front every day, being loaded. 5 and 6. Exterior and interior view of a field bakery. 7. Sorting cattle in different lots, eventually destined to the revictualling of the field army.



Après la bataille de l'Yser, le Gouvernement belge décida de créer diverses usines de guerre qui fonctionnent depuis cette époque à la satisfaction générale et constituent un remarquable exemple d'organisation improvisée. 1. Un des ateliers de réparation de l'arsenal de construction automobile (A. C. A.). 2. Ajustage des canons 105 Schneider à l'arsenal de construction du matériel d'artillerie (A.C.M.A.). 3. Les ateliers de fabrication de munitions. (A. F. M.) Le tournage des obus. 4. La coulée de l'acier. 5. L'estampage des obus. 6. L'atelier de pointage des obus. 7. L'atelier de peinture des engins de tous calibres.

After the battle of the Yser, the Belgian Government decided to create different plants for war work, that have been working since and giving general satisfaction; they represent fine samples of improvised organization. 1. One of the repairing workshops in the arsenal for the building of motor cars. (A. C. A.) 2. The 105 Schneider guns being fitted at the arsenal for building artillery (A. C. M. A.). 3. Works for the making of munitions. (A.F.M.). Turning shells. 4. Casting steel. 5. Stamping of shells. 6. Shop for marking shells. 7. Shop for painting munitions of all sizes.

Les Colonies Scolaires — The School Colonies



La sollicitude du Gouvernement pour les réfugiés a été la même pour les grands que pour les petits. 1. Arrivée d'enfants dans une colonie. 2. Colonie de Criquetot : la toilette des petits pensionnaires. 3. Colonie de Campeaux : la classe dans les baraquements. 4. Colonie d'Yvetot : le réfectoire. 5. Les plus petits de la colonie de Malaise à la promenade. 6. Colonie de Saint-Paer : les petites dentellières au travail. 7. Colonie de Malaise : la classe en plein air pendant une visite de M^{me} Henry Carton de Wiart. 8. Les petits garçons de la colonie d'Yvetot. 9. Les enfants au bord de la mer en Normandie.

The government have taken minute care of all the refugees, full-grown as well as young. 1. Children arriving in a colony. 2. Criquetot institution : the little boarders dressing. 3. The colony at Campeaux : lessons given in the huts. 4. The colony at Yvetot : the dining hall. 5. Small children of the colony of Malaise, out. 6. Colony of Saint-Paer : little lace-makers at work. 7. The colony of Malaise : lessons in the open during a visit of M^{me} Henry Carton de Wiart wife of the Secretary for Justice. 8. Boys of the institution of Yvetot. 9. Children at the beautiful seaside in Normandie.

L'Œuvre de Secours — The Relief Work



La C. R. B. et le C. N. S. A. ont assuré la subsistance de la population du pays occupé. L'œuvre réalisée assure à ceux qui l'ont organisée et la dirigent avec tant de dévouement la reconnaissance universelle. 1. Dans une cantine : le repas des indigents. 2. En attendant la soupe. 3. Un restaurant pour les enfants. 4 et 5. L'examen médical des enfants. 6, 7 et 8. A Rotterdam : le transbordement des grains sur les allèges qui les transportent en Belgique par les canaux. 9. Arrivée de la soupe et du pain dans un local de distribution. 10. Le "Pôle Nord" à Bruxelles transformé en magasin de vêtements. 11. Un ouvrier.

The Commission for Relief in Belgium and the "Comité National de Secours et d'Alimentation" have supplied the inhabitants of the occupied districts with food and have, by their selfdevotion, earned universal gratitude. 1. In a canteen : poor women and children having their meal. 2. Waiting for soup. 3. A restaurant for children. 4 and 5. Medical examination of children. 6, 7 and 8. At Rotterdam. Grain being tranferred to the barges that carry it into Belgium by canal. 9. Soup and bread brought to a distribution centre. 10. The skating rink in Brussels now turned into a clothing store. 11. A workshop.

Quelques Grandes Figures — A few Leading People



Photos Fernex, Manuel, Boule, Crépieux, Dupont-Emera, L'ubois.

Il nous est impossible de reproduire les traits de tous ceux qui, au pays occupé, ont incarné la résistance à l'envahisseur, de tous ceux qui, en exil, ont apporté au Gouvernement l'appui de leur dévouement et de leur compétence. Nous avons réuni ici quelques-unes des hautes personnalités qui, en Belgique, ont su assurer le ravitaillement moral et matériel et de ceux qui, en exil, ont été les collaborateurs dévoués du Gouvernement de la Défense nationale. La place ne nous fera pas défaut plus tard pour assigner à tous ceux qui se dévouèrent pour la Patrie le rang qu'ils méritent dans les annales de la guerre.

We cannot possibly reproduce the photographs of all who have so wonderfully withstood the invaders in occupied country, and of those who have brought the Government in exile their most devoted aid. We have selected a few prints of high rank personalities, in Belgium, who have secured moral and material revictualling, and in exile, who have devotedly helped the Government and the National defence. We won't be short of space later on, when we shall assign to the merited rank, everyone who's sacrifice for the Fatherland has deserved to appear in the annals of the war.

Help to Prisoners

THE Germans took about 34,000 prisoners during the Belgian campaign. They were distributed through all the camps of Germany and mixed up without any distinction of nationalities with the other prisoners: French, English, Russians, Serbians and Roumanians. Since the early days of the war, their fate has been extremely painful, on account especially of the poor quality and inadequate amount of the food supplied to them; from month to month, the situation has been growing steadily worse. Before the close of 1914, a large number of committees were formed in occupied Belgium as well as in Belgian circles outside the country. The public of the Allied nations and even of some neutrals have also generously contributed to this work of humanity, in which they found an opportunity of showing their sympathy for Belgium. Still the multiplicity of these very touching, but disconnected initiatives offered many drawbacks. There was a good deal of confusion and overlapping, and individual prisoners, or even whole camps, were altogether neglected. In order to co-ordinate the liberal efforts of private benefactors and to supplement them with official action, the Belgian Government, in May 1915, instituted a central committee of assistance to prisoners of war under the guidance of M. Carton de Wiart, Minister of Justice. This committee meets at Havre, under its Chairman M. Cooreman, Prime Minister; it acts as a connecting link between the local committees of France, England, Denmark and Holland; it has even been able to get indirectly into touch with the committees of occupied Belgium, without, however interfering with their independence. Each sub-committee keeps its own accounts and under its own responsibility manages the gifts received from the public and the subsidies allowed to it by the Central Committee. The latter does not confine itself to distributing the subsidies, it also assists the sub-committees by sometimes sending to prisoners who are in need such necessities as are too expensive for the sub-committees. In the course of the year 1915, for instance, the Central Committee forwarded to all prisoners some articles of underwear which were urgently wanted.

The work of assistance to prisoners of war sends out an average of 80,000 parcels per month, and it is largely due to it that Belgian prisoners have been able to bear their painful captivity so bravely.



THE BELGIAN FRONT

The Watch on the Yser.

ON the day after the battle of the Yser, the Belgian army was so exhausted that part of it had to be brought to the rear. Nevertheless, it never ceased as a whole to bear its share at the fighting post assigned to it, and, as its re-organisation proceeded, it extended its front to such a length of trenches that from the beginning of 1915 to the middle of 1917, not one of its divisions could be sent wholly to rest and that it commanded no strategic reserve. The character of the soil rendered its task particularly difficult. As M. Roland de Marès wrote in the *Temps*, the Belgian's chief enemy at the front was not the German, it was water, water slowly undermining and destroying the most solid works, invading the trenches and filling the saps.

The winter of 1914-1915 was hideously trying. In order to provide the indispensable comforts to the soldiers during their endless station in the mud, everything had to be made out of nothing.

I had inspected the trenches and battlefields of the Yser in November 1914. I had wandered through the smoking ruins of the villages in all their young horror; I had seen the shattered walls of the Cloth Hall of Ypres ruddy in the tragic evening light; I had looked upon German corpses floating on the muddy waters of the inundation; now, after two years, I have passed through the same desolate spots again; their desolation has perhaps become still more painful, because it has assumed the appearance of something habitual. Ramskapelle, Pervyse, Lampierre, Nieuwcapelle, Reninghe, Boesinghe, those villages then were heaps of bleeding ruins, but they were still alive with warlike sounds. Algerian sharpshooters were quartered in the school house of Reninghe, which had escaped the bombardment by a miracle, and they were filling it with cheerful noise. Belgian soldiers in tattered uniforms followed the drenched roads crossing reliefs of French territories, zouaves and marines. The posts of the several nations that had taken part in the battle were in neighbourly, close touch. At Furnes, at Loo and in other villages and townships immediately behind the front, there was a picturesque mingling of all the uniforms of the Allied armies, and the vast grey plain, under the unceasing thumping of shells seemed to be teeming with troops and transports. The battle was just over, perhaps soon to begin again.

In 1918, when I revisited the Belgian front, the cannon were still roaring in broken squalls, but over a desert. The Belgian army was holding the Yser front alone, but, obeying the necessities of trench warfare, it was in hiding. It was present everywhere, but nowhere to be seen. For kilometres, our motor meandered through empty roads. It passed through

the sites of villages where the ruins had, after two years' time, clad themselves with brambles and weeds. When it stopped for a moment an officer or soldier would emerge from the rubbish heaps leaving his shelter, his trench or his watching post to see what it was that came to break the deadly monotony of his heroic and dreary guard. A few words were exchanged, then the motor started off towards other ruins and silence fell on the scene again. Silence, yes, for the dull and distant rumbling of the guns becomes so habitual that it is heard no longer.

Still we must not dwell upon this spectacle of devastation, which indeed cannot be compared to more recent devastations. What gives the Belgian front its peculiar and original character is the manner in which the army has been able to organise a country where defensive works were especially difficult. That part of Flanders has been a 'polder', a marsh reclaimed centuries ago. In this flat and low lying soil, water comes up near the surface. Trenches cannot be dug, not even in the height of summer; at a depth of fifty centimetres the mud begins. The entrenching works must therefore be made above the ground by means of sandbags, but they must not be conspicuous in that bare unbroken landscape where the soil offers no cover of any kind. This difficulty has been solved by the Belgian army by dint of ingenuity and patience.

I have inspected these organisations in detail. They are a fascinating sight, for though the main features of the dreary war landscape never vary, the conditions of defence differ considerably from one sector to another. I began at Nieuport. The little town that used to doze lazily at the mouth of the Yser, at the back of its pretty silted up harbour, is now only a heap of rubbish. The bulbous steeple of its church is lying level with the ground; so is the handsome belfry of the Hall and that massy tower of the Templars that seemed built to defy the hands of time. This is what the soldiers call the sector of the water. The name is very well chosen. From Nieuport to Dixmude stretches the even sheet of the vast inundation.

Its wavelets are swept up by the breeze and die away at the foot of the intrenchment, and on raising one's head above the rampart one sees in front, as far as the eye can reach, nothing but a grey sheet of water from which here and there emerge small reed-grown mud islands. Some of them have been turned into listening posts, and may be visited by means of light bridges or rafts; those are the 'water posts'. Can we imagine the lives led by the watchmen on duty there, in solitude and in dusk, during interminable nights?

As for the rampart itself, for it is a rampart and not a trench, it is built of sandbags, of interwoven boughs, of gabions like those of Vauban's time, and as strong and comfortable as possible. Rising several metres above the level of the inundation, it is wide enough to cover safe shelters dug at its base for the men to spend the night and brave all bombardments. On no other point at the front is such an impression of security to be enjoyed. But the loneliness!

All along the Yser, from Nieuport to Dixmude, the inundation keeps the enemy at a distance; the German lines are separated from the Belgian lines by an interval of three kilometres at least; at Dixmude itself, or rather near Dixmude, for the enemy still holds the ruins of what was formerly a charming little town, the trenches nearly touch. In some places, they are only divided by about ten metres, and sniping is uninterrupted, without either party ever attempting a serious infantry action. At most, there are now and then some occasional blows attempted against outposts. The usual run of events is trench warfare in its nerveracking and treacherous immobility, trench warfare with its daily sacrifices, its unceasing dangers, and notwithstanding all that, its weary monotony. It goes on all along the Belgian front, under conditions somewhat milder than at Dixmude. In the vicinity of Reninghe, of Nieuwcapelle, at the old fort of Knocke, at Boesinghe, everywhere the prospect is nearly the same.

As one moves towards Ypres, the country becomes somewhat less water-logged, without changing its character, it is still the same devastated garden, the desolation of which has been organised in order to conceal the defence. Not one village in unoccupied Belgium has been wholly spared by the bombardment; not one but shelters barracks or hospitals; all that poor country, which poets were wont to compare to a nunnery garden, is now nothing but an intrenched camp. Wherever we pass, there is an inextricable maze of shaded footpaths, of ditches, of very low groves, which cover the movements of troops perfectly well. Unless one knows the front intimately, one cannot discover the trenches, the saps, the places of arms or the batteries. The uninitiated might wander about the country for kilometres, without perceiving anything but a few men of fatigue parties following the roads, and without suspecting that he is surrounded by thousands of watchful eyes, that below some harmless looking mound of earth there is a battery, a post of command connected by telephone with the headquarters of the sector, and that on the first alarm an infernal fire might in a few seconds be concentrated on the threatened point.

For months and months past, the Germans have untiringly been feeling the ground, firing guns of every calibre at certain spots, attempting to launch patrols. All in vain.

The Belgian Army's task was to prevent the Germans from crossing the Yser. Not one has crossed it.

But the enemy's great Spring offensive of 1918 was to show that the Belgian Army was capable of acting an infinitely more active part. Being repulsed in succession on the Oise, to the West of Montdidier, to the East of Amiens, the Germans looked for a weak spot in the North, and decided to strike there. He wanted to take Ypres and Poperinghe, to outflank the whole line of Flanders and thus to force his way to Dunkirk and Calais. With this intention he opened the battle of the Lys on April 9th. He first attacked the Ypres salient in the South. Having occupied Armentières and Bailleul, he tried to turn the hills of Flanders. He was indeed able to take Kemmel, but there his progress stopped. Near Locre and Scherpenberg, the French troops made a dauntless resistance. Then the enemy changed his plan: he now tried to cut off the Ypres salient by attacking it in the North. This was the sector defended by the Belgians. On one of the prisoners was found an order of attack signed von Kield, and containing the following words: 'The Belgians are not used to being attacked in force; success is certain. They will be overthrown before they see where they are.' The event was soon to show this von Kield that the Belgians, although unused to being attacked in force, were much more serious opponents than was imagined. The ground favoured the assailant. After the first attacks near Armentières and Bailleul, the British had been compelled to move further North, and the Belgians had to follow suit and to carry their principal line of resistance Westwards, behind the water-sheets of Martjewart. Still they had not given up the line lately handed to them by the troops of General Anthoine, and they held it with a whole series of outposts. On April 17, after a short but violent artillery preparation, the German infantry stormed forward, using the Poperinghe road as its axis. It came in a considerable mass, numbering no less than three divisions, one of them the sixth Bavarian, which is known as a body of picked men. In the second line, three more divisions had been collected near the Houthulst wood; further off, a seventh division was ready to support the onslaught. The mass advanced quickly, with such a contempt for its adversary that its command took no precautions against dangers that might threaten its right. First, it seemed to carry everything before it. Belgian outposts near the road were swept away or submerged under the flood. They resisted valiantly, delayed the enemy's march by vigorous hand to hand struggle, but were finally subdued after one another. At noon, the Germans had reached the supporting line. But from that minute, fortune changed: the Belgian artillery's practice improved; a formidable barrage stopped the German reserves, while an offensive bombardment was shaking the storm troops. Then came the decisive moment: the Belgian infantry rushed from their trenches, and, marching behind the offensive barrage with admirable precision, they regained all the lost ground with the bayonet. Being caught between two barrage fires and left without reinforcements, the enemy was disconcerted and lost his offensive qualities. The battalions broke, a number of small fights began, in which the Belgian soldiers' initiative was the admiration of all the witnesses of this lively battle. At eight o'clock, they had recovered all the lost ground and taken over 800 prisoners. The German attempt had met with a definite check. The Belgian Army had won a real battle and shown that it could play its part in a war of movement as well as in trench warfare. Field Marshal Foch, the Generalissimo of the Western Armies, has given public expression to his confidence in it. On May 23, he came to the Belgian G. H. Q. and in the King's presence conferred on Gen. Gillain the rank of Commander in the Legion of Honour. Many orders and medals were also granted to officers and men who had distinguished themselves in what is known as the fight of Kippe.



THE REFUGEES

THE methods of frightfulness applied by Germany in Belgium had the immediate result of causing a general exodus of the Belgian population. The news of the first shootings of civilians, of the first cases of incendiarism and of all the deliberate deeds of atrocity committed at Visé and in the country of Herve spread through the kingdom with prodigious quickness, although the Government wished to prevent a panic and therefore rather tried to suppress it. During the months of August and September 1914, all the roads of Belgium were covered with lamentable processions, which recalled the legendary horrors of wars in the past. The people of the villages and even of small towns were going, no one knew where, driving their cattle before them, wheeling their poor belongings on barrows. The smallest railway stations were besieged by maddened families who wanted to leave at all costs; a whole nation was in flight before the invasion of the barbarians.

After the fall of Namur and the battle of Charleroi, part of the inhabitants of the province of Luxemburg and of the district between the Sambre and Meuse emigrated to France, following or preceding the armies in their retreat. After the surrender of Antwerp, nearly the whole of the working class from the suburbs and a large part of the middle class crossed the frontier into Holland. The people of the sea coast and of the villages near the Yser were also compelled to leave the country; the well to do families that were having their holidays

in the watering places near the North Sea when war broke out took refuge in England, where most generous offers of hospitality had been made to them. The number of Belgian refugees who arrived in France in 1914 is estimated at about 200,000, but, that figure has been considerably increased in consequence of the compulsory evacuation of many inhabitants from unoccupied Flanders. In England there are about 100,000. In Holland, there were 600,000 to 700,000 after the fall of Antwerp, but there are about 50,000 left, most of them having returned to their homes in the early months of 1915.

At the close of the year 1917, the Ministry of the Interior, which had through the force of circumstances become a kind of Ministry of the Refugees, estimated the number of Belgians momentarily settled in France, in England and in Holland at about 700,000.

When the Belgian Government settled at Sainte-Adresse, it was therefore responsible for a whole mass of exiles, a troublesome task at any time, but all the more troublesome as most refugees were in a critical position. Various difficult problems arose. Those numerous families, many of which were without their fathers, had to be kept alive, to be supplied with means of livelihood and with employment. They were, as far as possible, to be kept in touch with the home country which they had left. They had to be kept on good terms with the foreign peoples among whom they were living. No doubt the good will of the French and English Governments and peoples made the Belgian Government's task much easier. Still all those efforts and kind intentions had to be co-ordinated. To this the Government, itself an exile, applied itself from the first after settling down in France. Delegates have been appointed for all the districts of France, of England and of Holland where Belgian refugees had arrived, in order to bring them together, to find employment for them, and to approach the English Committees of relief and the French authorities, which, by a generous decree, granted them the same allowances as they did to French refugees. In this way, small Belgian colonies have been formed in various provinces of France and of England, where they live their own lives while mixing with the native population. Their relations with the latter are very friendly on the whole.

When the first difficulties of adaptation were overcome, the Belgian refugees provided labour that was extremely serviceable to French and English business firms, especially as munition workers and miners.

Besides official relief to refugees, a large number of private charities have been created by the Belgians themselves to give assistance to those of their countrymen who were especially in want. Such is the Central Franco-Belgian Committee which organised the Belgian flag day along with the French authorities and made a very wise distribution of the money thus collected.

One of the most interesting among those various funds, which it would take too long to enumerate, is that which undertook the transfer into France of the children from the villages on the Yser. As soon as the front had been fixed along the little Flemish river after the great battle of October 1914, many inhabitants managed to return into their half ruined villages. Although they were being unceasingly shelled they lived there in their cellars, and the children played about the soldiers' quarters, wandering aimlessly along the roads or in the trenches. The parents were persuaded to place them under the care of a society patronised by the Queen, and which obtained the free use of country houses and villas in the various provinces of France. There the little exiles spend the time of the war in charge of Belgian nuns and schoolmasters, under the best possible conditions. M^{me} Carton de Wiart, Senator Empain, Deputies Brunet and Ramaekers have devoted themselves particularly to this work and have lent it a motherly and homelike character which has greatly helped to mitigate the fate of those unfortunate children.

What characterises all the Belgian works for refugees, as has been rightly pointed out, is the union of practical sense with the most generous feeling of solidarity; it will also be noticed that the habits and institutions of the home country have been kept up by them in the land of their exile.



BELGIUM UNDER THE YOKE

Military Occupation.

BEFORE the war, there were few countries in the world where the ordinary citizens enjoyed more freedom than in Belgium. Accordingly they were no less angry than dejected on the morrow of the invasion when they suddenly found themselves subjected to the most tyrannous and arbitrary of all rules, that of German martial law. The whole world is now acquainted with the martyrdom of the Belgian towns which the German army entered as a foe. The names of Visé, of Dinant, of Namur, of Andenne, of Wavre, of Louvain, of Aerschot, of Termonde are already inscribed in history beside those of ancient cities destroyed by the Huns and Vandals. Thousands of victims, women, children, old men, priests, were pitilessly sacrificed to the hateful system of frightfulness; villages were decimated and set on fire with no other aim than the spread of terror. This black picture

henceforth belongs to the record of Teutonic barbarity. But it might have been hoped that after the occupation of the greater part of the country had been secured, the conqueror, who called himself civilised, might have grown more humane. This hope was disappointed. In spite of the solemn promises made by Baron von der Goltz, when he assumed office as Governor of the country, Belgium still underwent an arbitrary rule that never paid any regard either to the Hague conventions or to the laws of the kingdom.

The German Civilian Administration and the Reign of Terror.

THE greater part of Flanders was regarded as a district of military operations, and therefore remained under martial law, the most arbitrary system of administration. As for the rest of the country, it was put under civilian government, but did not on that account experience much better treatment. When Field Marshal von der Goltz, the first German Governor of Belgium, took possession of his post, on September 2^d 1914, he issued a proclamation which was full of fair promises. After the good German manner, it contained some threats, such as that of making the innocent pay for the guilty, in accordance with the 'hard necessities of war', but it concluded with the following words:

'The Belgian citizens who wish to attend peacefully to their business have nothing to fear from the German troops or authorities. As far as possible, commerce must be resumed, factories must begin to work again and the crops must be harvested.'

'I do not ask any one to renounce his patriotic feelings, but I expect from all of you reasonable submission and absolute obedience to the orders of the General Government. I invite you to show confidence to it and to lend it your assistance. This invitation I direct especially to the civil servants under the State and municipalities that have remained at their post. You will serve your country better, the more you respond to this appeal.'

In spite of these promises, the German authorities, being obviously determined to destroy the excellent spirit prevailing among the inhabitants by means of distress and unemployment, almost immediately took a number of measures that made the resumption of work and trade nearly impossible. Factories were required to re-open and to work, but on the invader's account, and when both the hands and the employers patriotically refused to do this, several heads of firms were at once arrested and part of their plant transferred to Germany. The system of frightfulness indeed was still being applied, as during the early days of the invasion, but with some hypocritical refinements. In virtue of the German military law, which nobody knew, and which often was in opposition with the conventions of The Hague, large numbers of patriots were prosecuted, arrested, imprisoned for offences imagined by the Germans to suit their own convenience. It was an offence to have corresponded with relatives or friends outside the country; to have sold, or even merely read a newspaper that was not approved by the censor; to have spoken unfavourably of Germany, to have laughed in a German soldier's presence, and even, in some towns, not to have saluted a German officer. As for giving assistance to a young Belgian who wished to cross the frontier in order to enlist with the army of his country, that was not an offence, but a crime. A large number of patriots have fallen under German bullets for it; the whole world will always remember the judicial murder of Miss Cavell and of the architect Mr Baucq and of many other patriots. On the other hand, the Germans were spreading starvation and distress throughout the country by means of extortionate and illegal requisitions, and of unlawful fines; they thus hoped to compel the Belgian Government to disgrace itself by a separate peace, which would have led to the vassality or even to the annexation of the country. But the Belgians under enemy occupation were very far from urging their King and Ministers to negotiate with their oppressors, they never ceased to proclaim by every means in their power that they wanted the struggle to continue to the end and that they expected deliverance from victory only. 'Our sufferings must not be considered', they announced through all those who were able to cross the frontier, 'we are determined at all costs to have no premature peace.' Such voices of hope and courage came not only from the few, but from the deep masses of the people, from trade unions as well as from public representative bodies.

The Germans soon came to realise that the system of frightfulness yielded no results: the Belgians withstood it not only with resignation and courage, but even with cheerfulness. More than once, the temporary tyrants of that incoercible country were the butts of huge jokes which incensed them more than an open rebellion, which they more than once tried to provoke in order to smother it in blood, could have done. The spirit of Uylenspiegel, the legendary hero of the rising of the Netherlands in the XVIth Century, awoke spontaneously among the Belgian people, and the German authorities experienced with bitterness that they were being laughed at as much as they were hated.

When the methods of frightfulness had failed, the Germans resolved to try seduction and division. They succeeded no better. Having hired a few wretches belonging to the lowest

Bohemian circles of finance and of the press, they founded a number of newspapers in French and in Flemish which, under the cover of 'reasonable patriotism', undertook the task of demoralising the public by slandering the Allies and by making people bend to the accomplished fact. The national common sense was quite equal to defeating such a manoeuvre, but it was also promptly met by some bold patriots. A mysterious newspaper, *La Libre Belgique*, which was circulated in secret despite the German censorship, undertook to place things in their true light, to refute accusations, to answer the slanders of the German-paid press, and to preach courage, hope and patriotism. Indeed, the secular and ecclesiastic authorities which had stayed in the country took the lead in opposition from the earliest days, without ever overstepping the bounds of legal action. The whole universe has done homage to the noble character of Cardinal Mercier, who has been justly compared to the great Bishops who at the time of the invasions of Barbarians, shielded their cities and congregations from Huns and Vandals by the sheer authority of their speech and of their courage. His charges and pastoral letters have, with an admirable nobility of language and of thought, given expression to the Catholic doctrine respecting the idea of patriotism.

On the other hand, in his disputes with Baron von Bissing, the second German Governor of Belgium, the Prelate has established the rights of temporarily conquered peoples against a foreign occupant from the point of view of eternal justice.

This great example has been followed by the whole clergy, but the secular authorities have not fallen behind in point of courage and dignity. The Burgomaster of Brussels, M. Adolphe Max, will appear in history as the embodiment of civic courage. His ready wit was equal to his wisdom and fortitude, in facing a military authority that knew no restraint in the early days of occupation. And when the Germans had deported and imprisoned him in Germany to make him expiate his patriotism, his locum tenens, first Alderman M. Maurice Lemonnier, followed exactly in his footsteps; it was not long before he was himself deported and imprisoned as was M. Jacquemin, the Alderman of Public Education. Several Burgomasters of provincial towns suffered the same fate.

Most municipal officers, except those whose towns had been destroyed, remained at their posts, disputed the conqueror's demands step by step, and acted their parts as defenders of their cities with energy and pride. As for the Judges and magistrates, they went on administering justice in the King of the Belgians' name; their position was rendered particularly difficult by exceptional and foreign courts of law superimposing themselves on the legitimate judiciary again in virtue of the German martial law. They have always managed to be at once moderate and patriotic, and they have given many a courageous decision to recall the invader to the respect due to the law.

When the perfidious measures taken by the occupying force threatened the very constitution of the Belgian State, they protested with a dignity, an energy and a civic courage that have been the admiration of the civilised world. The German authorities, finding themselves unable to enslave them, finally took away their powers and put German magistrates in their places, as will appear from our account. The Bar displayed an equal firmness and patriotism.

On several occasions, it issued solemn protests against certain unlawful measures taken by the German authorities, until Baron von Bissing, who succeeded Baron von der Goltz at the close of the year 1914, ordered M. Léon Théodor, president of the Brussels bar, to be deported and confined in a German prison, from which he was only released on the King of Spain's intervention.

Meanwhile the German military courts unceasingly pronounced sentences of the utmost harshness upon the patriots, under colour of espionage. According to a declaration made to the *Times* newspaper in August 1917 by an 'eminent person' who had escaped from Belgium, those courts sentenced as many as forty people to death within one month. Nevertheless, the spirit of the nation has still remained unshaken. Though sunk in distress and nearly starved to death, the masses of the Belgian people have retained the same confidence and the same hopefulness as on the first day. They have shut themselves up within their memories, and have hardly any contact with the invaders, and they show them a patriotic hatred that has at last called forth the admiration of the Germans themselves.

Attempts Made to divide and dismember Belgium.

FINDING themselves confronted with such a spontaneous and organised opposition, the Germans did not give up their methods of frightfulness against the patriots, but they attempted, at the same time, to apply to Belgium the policy of division summarised in the old Machiavellian motto: Divide et Impera. With this object in view they took up the language question and tried to create an opposition between the two races which have, by their free union, formed the Belgian people.

The Flemings had gradually secured the redress of all their grievances from the Belgian Parliament. The equality of languages in official usage had been sanctioned for many

years. In the Flemish country, Dutch was the language of the law courts and of the public services. Elementary and secondary education was also given in Flemish. Only the Universities had not followed suit. The flamingant party were asking that either the University of Ghent should become Flemish, or that a new Flemish University should be opened. This purely Belgian question was on its way to being solved in a spirit of mutual good will. Nevertheless, the Germans affected to regard the Flemings as Teutonic brethren, tyrannised over by the Walloons and by the « Frenchified Government », and noisily announced that they were at last going to give the Flemish people the satisfaction that they had vainly been expecting from the lawful Government of their country. By a mere decree of Baron von Bissing's the University of Ghent was turned into a Flemish University, and as the Professors of this institution had been practically unanimous in refusing to submit to this measure, they were brutally dismissed from their offices. Two of the most prominent, M. Henri Pirenne and M. Paul Frédéricq, one of the foremost leaders of the flamingant party, were imprisoned in Germany. The Governor had, in order to recruit a new staff of Professors, to call in some Dutchmen, some Luxemburgers, and some individual Flemings who enjoyed neither authority nor influence and who were won over by dint of money and promises. This manoeuvre, however, ended in failure. Nearly all the flamingant leaders, Senators, Deputies, municipal officers, authors and teachers sent a solemn protest to the Governor, declaring that they expected redress of their grievances only from the lawful Government of their country. As for the students of the new Teutonic-Flemish University, in spite of all the promises held out and of all the advantages granted to them, they came in such small numbers that the institution sank under the weight of ridicule.

But the German Government none the less persisted in its policy of division. In spite of the rules of international law embodied in the Convention of The Hague, according to which the occupying power is a mere usufructuary of the legal authority, and cannot alter the institutions of the country, it determined, with the object of setting the Flemings against the Walloons, to substitute for the constitutional division of Belgium into nine Provinces a partition into Flanders and Wallonia. It once more encountered the patriotism of all Belgians, without distinction of race: Deputies and Senators, Municipal and provincial councils joined their protests to that of the Government in Havre. Most public servants, when told to choose between keeping their means of livelihood and submitting to the orders of the enemy, decided to resign. Several among them were deported into Germany under the slightest pretences or without any pretence, and the Governor found himself obliged to call upon Germans or upon inferior clerks who were suddenly promoted to higher rank, in order to prevent the breakdown of public business.

All the elected representatives of the Flemish people, all the influential leaders of the flamingant party, withstood the offers of the occupying Power, and faithfully persisted in their patriotic attitude. Only a few traitors from the dregs of the flamingant party agreed to lend themselves to the enemy's manoeuvres, and formed themselves into the so-called Council of Flanders early in 1917. Although the whole country protested through the men best qualified to speak in its name, the Germans pretended to look upon the members of that Council of Flanders as the Flemish people's representatives and when those contemptible and unauthorised individuals asked the Berlin Government to convert the administrative separation of Flanders and Wallonia into a political separation, it was officially announced that the Emperor gave his assent to the proposal. Six hundred dummies, having met in a theatre in Brussels, appointed a number of Deputies, whom Germany pretended to regard as the representatives of the 750,000 inhabitants of Brussels and suburbs. A Flemish Cabinet was formed and the Teutonic propaganda attempted to prove that, according to the right of self-determination of the peoples, the Flemings had erected an independent State under German protectorate. Then occurred an unexpected event which seriously upset the calculations of the Imperial authorities and which showed undeniably that the Council of Flanders is in no way representative of Flanders. On January 1918, the members of the Senate and of the Lower House, then in Belgium, i. e. a large majority of both Houses, met secretly in Brussels and addressed to the Court of Appeals a letter of accusation against the members of the Council of Flanders, especially against those who called themselves Ministers of the new « autonomous » State established by the enemy. After having inquired into the legal grounds for the accusation, in a plenary meeting of all the courts, the Court of Appeals ordered its public prosecutor to enter an action under the Belgian law against persons responsible for the separation of Flanders and Wallonia. On the next day, the Prosecutor ordered two of the chief Ministers of the « Flemish State », Borms and Tack, to be arrested. The news spread through the city like fire, gave rise to an uncontrollable joy among the people and caused a ludicrous astonishment to the German authorities. One of the two individuals under arrest had time to warn the Kommandantur through a German sentry. Nevertheless, it took several hours before the two prisoners were at large, and it was two days later before the

deportation into Germany was ordered of M. Lévy-Morelle, the acting First President, and of Messrs. Carez and Ernst, the Court Presidents. The Court of Appeals was dissolved.

In order to protest against this arbitrary interference of the occupying Power with the course of the Belgian law, the Court of Cassation decided to cease its sittings. The Courts of Appeals of Ghent and Liège, the commercial and district courts followed its example, and the whole metropolitan staff of the Finance Ministry handed in their resignations. All the public bodies still left on duty thus rose against the German authorities at the very time when Germany was trying to make the world believe that she had achieved the moral conquest of the country, and when the *Rheinisch-Westphalische Zeitung* wrote: « The late Belgian Government now in exile at Havre no more represents the former Kingdom of Belgium than a handful of refugees in Zurich represent Lithuania. » The magnificent stand made by all the legal spokesmen of the Belgian people had the immediate effect of co-ordinating the scattered manifestations of the national feeling. It was promptly followed by fresh popular demonstrations: six hundred Flemish clubs and societies sent delegates to the municipal council of Brussels to congratulate it on its resistance to Activist manoeuvres. The municipal council of Ghent, a purely Flemish town, unanimously passed a resolution « denying both the legal status and effective power of the Council of Flanders and proclaiming its faithfulness to the Nation, to the King and to the Government of the Belgian people. » A large number of municipal councils in the Flemish country did the same. The Flemish Academy sent a no less vigorously worded protest to the Chancellor. It clearly appeared that Belgium was unanimous in refusing to be dismembered, in rejecting the autonomy offered by Germany as a means to slavery.

These manifold demonstrations, which the Germans have been unable to suppress, have proved to the whole world the cohesion of the Belgian people. They have shown to all honest observers that the two nationalities of which it is made up, Flemings and Walloons, are really one nation, according to the famous definition of Renan, a nation united by the memory of great sufferings borne in common and of great deeds accomplished in common in the past, by the resolve to perform great things in common in the future.

Deportations.

EVEN while trying to seduce one part of the country and to divide it from the whole, the German Government still followed its system of frightfulness. About the close of 1916, it contrived « *dus* » measures, which struck at the very roots of the nation's economic and domestic life: deportations and forced labour. These measures have never been wholly abandoned, and more than anything else they illustrate the hypocrisy and cruelty of the rule inflicted on conquered communities by the Imperial Government.

Under colour of combating unemployment, which it had itself organised, it invited the Belgian workers to sign indentures and to go to Germany, where high wages were promised them. The hypocrisy of this appeal was the more heinous as the local committees entrusted with the distribution of the relief supplied by the Spanish-American Fund which was keeping the nation alive, had with great practical sense, started important public works and thus found employment for a large number of out of works. When the Germans began to prepare their system of deportations, they put every obstacle in the way of the relief committees, and finally even forbade them to carry on their economic activity. They expected that the men would be compelled by distress to work in their factories, against the interests of Belgium. But they were once more disappointed in their mean speculation. The number of Belgian working men who consented to sign the so-called labour contract at the request of the Germans was insignificant. Then the Government introduced what amounts to a system of public slavery (decree of October 3^d 1916) and proceeded with the deportation of whole masses of men. Thousands of poor people were suddenly torn from their homes; families were broken up by main force; young girls were subjected to repulsive medical inspections and taken from their parents; heartrending scenes were witnessed in peaceful villages, even in whole towns. In this way not only shifts of workmen for munition factories, but also labourers for the trenches were obtained. Many Belgians were carried to the North of France, right in the firing line and thus exposed to the fiercest bombardments. It has so far been impossible even approximately to ascertain the number of those deportations, but more than 100,000 Belgians are known to have been thus reduced into slavery. This abominable system was applied equally to all classes of society and to every part of the country. The very Flemings whose hearts the Imperial Government had attempted to gain were treated as harshly as were the Walloons, an undeniable proof that it was no longer hoping to seduce them.

There is hardly a family that has not been hit by this tyranny which is without precedent in the history of modern peoples, and while no war measure has caused greater sorrow than this, not one has more powerfully contributed to make the German name abhorred.

Yet, the Government of Berlin has tried to justify itself. Its newspapers have represented deportations and forced labour as a humane way of finding employment for the unhappy

Belgians when struck by distress in consequence of the English blockade, but all in vain. By simply laying the texts side by side, M. F. Passelecq, in the remarkable book devoted by him to this subject, has proved beyond all doubt that the Belgian deportations were organised by Germany with a threefold object: strategic, political and economic. She wanted to raise the numbers of her army by substituting Belgian slave labour for German labour in her munition factories, to terrorise a people whom she could neither seduce nor dishearten, and, in addition, to ruin their industry for ever. She has only succeeded in striking deeper roots of hatred in the hearts of a nation that, down to 1914, knew only the laws of hospitality and kindness.



THE FOOD SUPPLY FOR BELGIUM

WHAT has life been in Belgium under German occupation? We only know through faint echoes, on our side of the front, but when viewed retrospectively it will appear to all Belgians, to those outside and to those who are now in the country, as an abominable nightmare. Not only was all freedom destroyed and a rule of terror established, but to these evils the sufferings of wholesale starvation would have been added, if our unfortunate country-people had not been helped by the initiative and by the organising ability of a few eminent Belgians, joined to the inexhaustible and practical liberality of our American friends. This starvation seems to have been deliberately prepared by the Germans through their extortionate requisitions, the object of which was to conquer the national resistance with which they were faced and to force the Allied Governments into a premature peace. The generous men who succeeded in bringing provisions into Belgium and into the Departments of Northern France in spite of the obvious ill-will of the occupying Power have therefore rendered an inestimable service to the common cause, while admirably fulfilling a lofty duty of humanity. Among them, the names must be mentioned of M. Ernest Solvay, President of the National Committee of Relief and Food Supply, MM. Jean Jadot and Van der Rest, Vice-Presidents, and especially of MM. Emile Francqui, President of the Executive Committee and Hoover, Chairman of the Committee for Relief in Belgium, whose energy, self devotion and organising genius have worked wonders. Finally, the high patrons of the work, the Marquess of Villalobar, Spanish Minister in Brussels, and M. Brand Whitlock, United States Minister, should not be forgotten.

The national Government at Havre, on its part, has done its utmost to support the work of relief by granting it diplomatic and financial assistance. The Belgian Minister of Finance has nearly found the whole of the necessary funds, by borrowing money from the Allied Governments, and it has from the first been permanently represented at the Committee for Belgian Relief in London, by its delegate, Chevalier E. Carton de Wiart.

The National Committee of Relief and Food Supply and the Committee for Relief in Belgium are practically twin sections, Belgian and American, of the same institution; they started working in November 1914. At first they cared only for Belgium, but their activity soon extended to the occupied parts of Northern France.

A few figures communicated to us by M. E. Sengier, Treasurer in London may give an idea of the giant's task that has been performed. The total population to be assisted numbers 7,300,000 Belgians and 1,700,000 French people who are entirely dependent on the twin Committees. They have organised 4,657 municipal warehouses and 156 district depots. Between November 1914 and October 1917 they had to distribute food and clothing to the value of 1,525,000,000 francs. The greater part of this sum has been supplied by the Belgian Government, whose grants had amounted to more than 1,750,000,000 francs on October 1917. But if it is remembered that in October 1917 the sums collected in America, in England and in other countries amounted to 150,000,000 francs, the sympathy felt for Belgium's cause throughout the world can only be admired.

No doubt the relief of occupied Belgium would have been impossible without the noble and vigorous support that it received from the first at the hands of the Spanish and American Ministers in Brussels, or without the generous and devoted assistance given by the American Committee under M. Hoover's Chairmanship, but it should be noted that the Belgians themselves took a considerable share in the work of organisation. Its full extent and efficiency can not be estimated and made known till after the war. According to statistics published by the Relief Committee, 35,000 Belgians and French people freely gave their labour to the work. What is most remarkable, however, is the practical sense, the feeling for actualities which has directed the distribution of relief. Acting on the advice of the National Committee, and especially of the President of the Executive Committee, M. Francqui, the local boards, which received the most intelligent and devoted support from the provincial and municipal authorities, have organised not only relief, but also employment and in many cases have resisted the German officials heroically when the latter attempted to cause unemployment in order to gain an excuse for deporting the workmen. Several of their number have been imprisoned and carried across the Rhine.

THE COLONIAL WAR

BELGIUM, says M. Louis Marin, has played an important part in the European war; in the African war, however, her part has been an essential one, and here also she knew how to keep within the strictest bounds of her legal rights. Although she had in the Congo a fine army of 25,000 well armed and well trained black soldiers, then the largest military force in Central Africa, she first did everything in her power to save the conventional basin of the Congo from the horrors of war, in strict obedience to the principles of the Act of Berlin. But Germany is not so respectful of scraps of paper. On August 22, 1914, the Belgian harbour of Lukuga, on Lake Tanganika, was suddenly attacked by German troops, and soon after the island of Kwidjiwi, at the centre of Lake Kivu was occupied. Colonial Belgium, conscious of having acted correctly to the last, then entered the struggle, and her troops, in conjunction with the French and British armies, stubbornly set to work to drive the German flag from the African Continent. Two scenes of operations offered for the forces of the Belgian Congo: the Cameroons and German East Africa. In the Cameroons, they shared principally with the French and English, in the Sanga campaign. After having brilliantly joined in the fights of N'Zimu, Mullundu, Lomie, N'Gato, Mono, Allad and Assoban, they had the satisfaction of triumphantly entering Yaoundé, the war capital of the Cameroons, distant over a thousand kilometres from their starting point, on January 28, 1916. In the order of the day addressed to his troops, the French General who was Commander in Chief of the army of the Cameroons paid a flattering tribute to the work done by the Belgians:

« Before parting with the contingents of the Belgian public force », he said, « it is my duty to state how valuable the assistance of those fine troops has been to us, and, with all my heart, I offer them the praise they have deserved by their steadiness under fire, by the patience and self-denial they have displayed during the whole of this long and painful campaign. »

The conquest of German East Africa was more difficult, for this colony had been very well prepared for war. The German Governor not only had numerous, well-equipped and well-armed black troops at his command, but also European contingents which had been landed at Dar-es-Salam. Moreover, when the cruiser *Königsberg* had been sunk by the English in the Rufidji river, its crew and its artillery came to re-inforce the garrison. At the close of 1915, the Germans in East Africa had about 75 guns of every calibre and 90 machine guns; additional supplies were landed by the two ships which succeeded in eluding the blockade in the course of that year.

It was out of the question to attack such forces without first organising the campaign with minute care.

Between September 1914 and January 1916, the Belgian troops which were brought from the interior of the colony to the German frontier and all along Rhodesia, from the South to the North of Lake Kivu, confined themselves to waging a defensive war and to sharing in the operations of the British troops in Northern Rhodesia. They firmly held this vast front against troops superior in number and armament, waiting till the offensive was minutely organised under the orders of General Tombeur. The great distance separating the base at Boma from the front of attack made this very difficult. Between Boma and Stanleyville, steamers and railways could be used, but from Stanleyville to Lake Kivu, where the Northern Brigade was being concentrated, food and ammunition had to be carried on men's backs for forty days.

General Tombeur, the Commander in Chief of the Belgian colonial army, went over to the offensive early in March 1916. The operations of the Belgian army took place in perfect touch with the British troops under General Smuts. While the latter were operating towards the Kilima-N'Djaro, to the East of the German colony, the Belgian columns attacked it on the North and West.

The Belgian offensive, which had been slowly prepared, was quickly pushed forward, according to the best method. It began on April 18th with the occupation of the Island of Gombo in Lake Kivu, followed, on the 19th, by the conquest of the post of Shanguu. On April 26th, another column, starting from Uganda, reached Lake Mohasi.

On July 3^d, at Kato, Major Rouling cut up a rearguard of the main body of the German army and took its Commander, Captain Godovius, prisoner. The Belgian troops were also victorious at Itaga and Lulangu. On July 14th and 15th, another German column was destroyed, and September 19th the united Belgian columns attacked and carried Tabora notwithstanding the desperate resistance of the German troops. By this fortunate operation, Belgium wrested over 200,000 square kilometres of territory from Germany. This victorious campaign continued in 1917. In conjunction with the British forces, the Belgian troops of the Congo commanded by Col. Huyghé finished the conquest of all German East Africa. The surrender of Mahengé on October 9 completed the task brilliantly begun by General Tombeur. After having been unjustly attacked in 1914, Colonial Belgium, along with its Allies, occupied nearly the whole of the German possessions in Equatorial Africa.

This African war was conducted with aspirit and determination which have been admired by all Colonial experts. The merit

for it is due, not only to General Tombeur and his staff, not only to M. Henry, Governor of the Congo, but also, to M. Renkin, Colonial Minister, who has imparted the driving power to the Belgian forces from his headquarters at Sainte-Adresse.

In the economic field, the Belgian Congo's efforts have not been less remarkable than in military action. The unavoidable crisis called forth by the declaration of war was shorter in the Congo than anywhere else. Imports stopped for a very short time only, and the vigorous measures at once taken by the Government to improve transports and business transactions soon convinced both colonists and natives that the mother country, notwithstanding her critical position, retained her confidence in the future and was not losing sight of her African possession.

The Belgian Congo not only lived its normal life in the midst of the world wide catastrophe, the reorganisation of the Government undertaken by Mr Renkin when taking office long before the war was pursued as if no change had occurred. The number of stations and of territorial administrators was considerably increased. The measures taken against sleeping sickness were improved. Work on the railway lines decreed before the war never stopped for a moment. In 1915, the « Compagnie des Grands Lacs » completed the line of 270 kilometres connecting Kabolo on the Upper Congo with Albertville on Lake Tanganika and the Colony has lately built over 2,130 kilometres of railways in the heart of Equatorial Africa. Several wireless stations have been built at a distance of over 2,000 kilometres from existing telegraph lines. The river traffic has been increased and a shipbuilding yard opened at Havre has succeeded in launching several steamers which are already in use.

At the outbreak of war, the fear was expressed that the vast African colony might be too heavy a burden for a small country engaged in hostilities and ruined by invasion. Such fears have proved futile. Not only has the Congo been able to live on its own resources, it has even to some extent contributed to supply the mother country. The copper mines of Katanga, which yielded 10,720 tons in 1914, had in 1916 increased their output to 22,000 tons; in 1917, the export was about 30,000 tons. The gold mines of the Kilo and Moto, in the Eastern Province, yielded 1,800 kilogrammes of metal in 1914 and 3,200 kilogrammes in 1916; the diamond mines of the Kasai, which yielded 15,000 carats in 1913, have yielded 54,000 in 1916 and 85,000 in 1917.

The production of agriculture has also risen considerably: in 1916, 22,390 tons of palm nuts, 3,850 tons of palm oil and 3,017 tons of indiarubber were contributed by the Congo to the war munition works of the Allies. In 1918, it is calculated that the Belgian Government may receive about 20,000 tons of rice from its colony. In brief, exports from the Congo, which were 53 million francs in 1914, had in 1915 risen to 72 million francs, and in 1916 to 129 million. The revenue from the native taxes, which are very moderate, fluctuating between 3 and 12 francs per annum and being paid only by adults rose from 8 million francs in 1914 to 12 million in 1917, giving clear evidence of a prosperity that has not often been equalled in Colonial history.

In Africa as in Europe, the Government's attention has been constantly turned towards after war problems. The troubles of the present day have never affected its confidence in the future. While organising the defence of its African territory and assisting in the conquest of the German colonies, an invaluable pawn, which enables the Allies to produce a colonial war map entirely favourable to them in opposition to the Continental war map of the Germans; Belgium has proceeded methodically with the development of the extensive lands bequeathed to it by the genius of Leopold II and measures have been taken to enable the colony to contribute largely to the work of reconstruction as soon as the national territory will be cleared.

The Belgians have thus shown, under the most trying circumstances, that their colonial methods and traditions have now become as sure and as fruitful as those of other European nations ruling parts of the Black Continent. They have, by their deeds, and not with mere speeches, answered the perfidious German doctrine which used to maintain, long before the war, that Belgium was incapable of administering the vast domains inherited from her second King. In Africa as in Europe, she has proved worthy numbering among to be of the nations that represent Western civilisation most brilliantly and most efficiently.



THE TASK OF RECONSTRUCTION

IT is not now the first time in history that Belgium undergoes the agonies of war. After the civil disturbances and feudal wars of the XIVth Century, the wars of religion in the XVIth, the European wars of the XVIIth, it was so ruthlessly plundered, so thoroughly sacked, that it might be feared that it would never again recover its ancient prosperity. Yet it recovered it. Whenever the storm had blown over, that indefatigable people again began to work, to produce, to raise up its ruined towns. This time it has not waited till the storm was over and under the enemy's yoke it has with a strong and bold optimism, begun to heal its wounds. The work of reconstruction and reparation has

been simultaneously started in occupied Belgium and among the exiles. Since the early days of 1915, in the enforced idleness in which they lived in consequence of the stoppage of trade and business, lawyers, artists, architects in Brussels, Antwerp, Ghent and Liège, have formed themselves into committees to examine the means of raising the country from its ruins after the war, and to restore it to its former appearance. The Central Society of Architecture and the Royal Committee for ancient buildings have centralised those efforts and planned a vast scheme for re-building and beautifying destroyed or damaged towns. On the other hand, large numbers of popular and technical schools intended to prepare for peace conditions have been founded nearly everywhere, either with private means or through the provincial and municipal administrations. At the very time, then, when they are being told by the Germans that rule them that their country is to disappear from the map, the Belgians in the occupied regions are only thinking of reorganising the prosperity of their native land. Is there a more admirable proof of fortitude and of national vitality to be found?

The Belgians in exile are making a similar effort. The manufacturers and merchants now living in France, in England and in Holland have everywhere combined either to examine the economic agreements needed after the war with their Allies or in order to found societies of economic reconstruction. The Government did not fail to take the lead in this movement. It is not only patronising several of those societies, but it has also established an inter-Departmental Committee, a number of committees of National Reconstruction, which are even now engaged in investigating all post war problems.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs, instituted on Oct. 12 1917, and now headed by M. G. Cooreman, has undertaken part of that extensive task. It concentrates and co-ordinates the data collected by official and private Committees and Societies with an eye to the economic reconstruction of the country. Owing to those preparatory measures, we may rest assured that as soon as Belgium has recovered its legitimate Government it will rise from its ruins with prodigious speed and that it will appear greater and stronger from the terrible trial that it has undergone.

We have now reached the close of our account, in which we have attempted to throw some light upon the part played by Belgium in the great tragedy of the war. From the first day, that small country, whose industry and prosperity was admired by all, but who took up a somewhat modest place in international political society, has appeared as one of the highest moral entities of the world. The heroism with which it has, regardless of sacrifice, remained faithful to given pledges and to the sacredness of contracts, which are the foundations of our civilisation, would have been sufficient to secure a privileged place for it in the tragic history through which we are living. « If Belgium did not recover her full independence », the President of the French Republic has said, « if she did not obtain the reparations due to her, the annals of Europe would be sullied with an indelible shame, and the statue of Justice would have to remain eternally wrapped in a funeral veil; there is not one of our Allies who would not prefer death to such ignominy. » The whole civilised world, including even most of the neutrals, has ratified these words. But Belgium has not confined herself to the part of an expiatory victim offered up to the gods of Imperialism. She has herself defended her existence and her rights; she has taken an important share in the war of liberation; she has struck the common enemy some efficient blows.

We have seen how she was able to reconstitute an army in the midst of war, although her territory was occupied, her Government driven out and her population imprisoned or scattered. It must be admitted that few peoples in history have given better proof of constancy and energy. While exhausted by a military effort of which no one believed her capable with her limited means, while trodden underfoot by an abominable tyranny, while ruined by the meanest of speculations, she has not for a minute lost the courage of living on, or that of conquering, and to-day, while panting under the enemy's yoke, she still shows courage to revive and blossom forth again. She has thus proclaimed with incomparable force, that she has not only a right to exist as a nation, but also that of taking in the society of peoples a much higher place than that due to the extent of her territory. In the month of August 1914, the world learned that universal civilisation would have missed something if Belgium had not existed. Then, in front of the new invasion of barbarians, she played the part of the 300 Spartans at Thermopylae. Therefore the great free peoples in whom the powers of the future are vested, those of old Europe and those of young America, have echoed the noble words of the President of the French Republic. When Mr Wilson put the restoration of Belgium in the forefront of the war aims of the Allies, he expressed the wishes of the conscience of mankind.

Edmond Wilson



Elisabeth

Le Corps Diplomatique — The Diplomatic Corps



Photos Fernes, Manuel, Boule.

Au moment où le Gouvernement a quitté Bruxelles, la plupart des représentants des Puissances alliées et neutres l'ont accompagné d'abord à Anvers et ensuite à Sainte-Adresse-Le Havre. Le ministre des Etats-Unis, M. Brand Whitlock, qui était resté à Bruxelles où il a rendu à la population belge les services les plus signalés, a rejoint le Gouvernement belge lors de l'entrée en guerre des Etats-Unis. Le ministre d'Espagne est encore en Belgique où il continue à s'occuper des œuvres d'assistance et de ravitaillement. On peut dire que la Belgique en exil a continué à vivre d'une vie diplomatique à peu près normale.

When the Government left Brussels, most of the Allied and Neutral diplomats attended them, first to Antwerp, and later on to Sainte-Adresse-Havre. The Minister for the United States, Mr Brand Whitlock who had remained in Brussels, where he was most helpful to the Belgian population, joined the Belgian Government at Havre when the United States entered the war. The Spanish Minister is still in Belgium, where he is busily engaged on work of assistance and relief. Exiled Belgium may be said to have continued in a nearly normal diplomatic life.

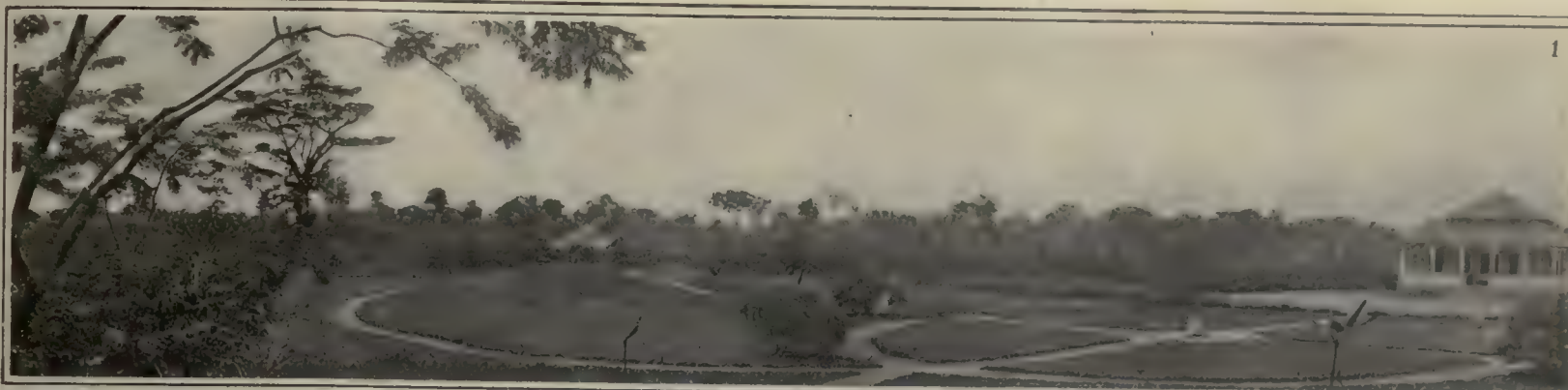
La Flandre Inondée — Flooded Flanders



Au moment de la bataille de l'Yser, l'armée belge tendit une inondation qui fut du plus utile concours; depuis lors le flot recouvre toujours une partie de la côte flamande. Voici quelques aspects de la Flandre inondée qui laissent à ceux qui la visitent une impression de désolation que rien ne saurait dépeindre. 1. Un poste dans le "secteur aquatique". 2. Une tête de pont. 3. L'inondation à Ramscappelle. 4. L'inondation dans la partie méridionale du front. 5. Passerelle conduisant aux avant-postes. 6. Une vue panoramique de l'inondation. 7. Un avant-poste. 8. La passerelle du poste de la forge.

During the battle of the Yser, the Belgian army secured a very useful means of defence by flooding a great deal of the country. Since then, part of the Flemish coast has remained under water. Here are a few different aspects of flooded Flanders that keep those who have visited them under a deep impression of desolation nothing could depict. 1. A post in the "water sector". 2. A bridgehead. 3. The flooding at Ramscappelle. 4. The inundation of the Southern part of the front. 5. Foot-bridge leading to the outposts. 6. Panoramic view of the floodings. 7. An outpost. 8. The foot-bridge at the post of the smithy.

L'Effort Colonial — The Colony's Labour



Malgré la guerre, le Congo a continué à vivre de sa vie normale et la réorganisation entreprise avant les hostilités s'est poursuivie sans relâche. 1. La station de l'Etat à Lula : jardins et caféiers. 2. Village et habitation d'un chef indigène aux Bangalas. 3. A Elisabethville : le boulevard Elisabeth et la maison des inspecteurs d'Etat. 4. Troupeaux de moutons, importés par milliers depuis 1914, à la station agricole de Katentania (Katanga). 5. L'expansion industrielle et économique du Congo : ces installations d'une société belge établie à Elisabethville (Katanga) donnent une idée de l'œuvre accomplie.

Notwithstanding the war, has the Congo been living its normal life and the work of reorganisation begun before the hostilities has been uninterrupted. 1. The State Station at Lula : gardens and coffee shrubs in the shade. 2. Village and the dwelling of a native chief at Lisala (Bangalas). 3. At Elisabethville : boulevard Elisabeth and the house of the State Inspectors. 4. Sheep flocks in the Katentania. 5. Industries and economic development in the Congo : these premises belong to a Belgian Company at Elisabethville (Katanga) and give a rough idea of the work done, towards the accomplishment of Belgium's deed.

L'Aviation Belge — The Belgian Aviation



Depuis le début des hostilités, le Roi n'a cessé de s'intéresser particulièrement à nos services d'aviation. 1. Le Roi interrogeant un de nos "as" : le L' Crombez qui vient de se distinguer. 2. Le Roi survole les lignes ennemies. 3. Un autre "as" : le lieutenant de Meulemeester. 4. Le Roi décore les lieutenants Tieffry et de Meulemeester; derrière eux, de gauche à droite, les aviateurs Pierre Braun, de Neef, Jean Olieslagers. 5. Visite du Roi d'Italie et du Roi des Belges à un centre d'aviation; à droite, le C' Jacquet; à gauche, le L' Tieffry. 6. Ballon d'observation. 7. Escadrille d'hydro-avions. 8. Départ d'observateurs d'artillerie.

From the outbreak of hostilities, has the King attentively followed the progress of our air service. 1. The King interviewing one of our "aces", L' Crombez, who has particularly distinguished himself. 2. The King flying over the enemy lines. 3. Another "ace": L' de Meulemeester. 4. The King decorating Lieutenants Tieffry and de Meulemeester; behind them standing, from left to right, the airmen: Pierre Braun, De Neef, Jean Olieslagers. 5. The King of Italy and the King of the Belgians visiting a flying camp; On the right, C' Jacquet, on the left, L' Tieffry. 6. Observation balloon. 7. Seaplane squadron. 8. Artillery observers flying up.

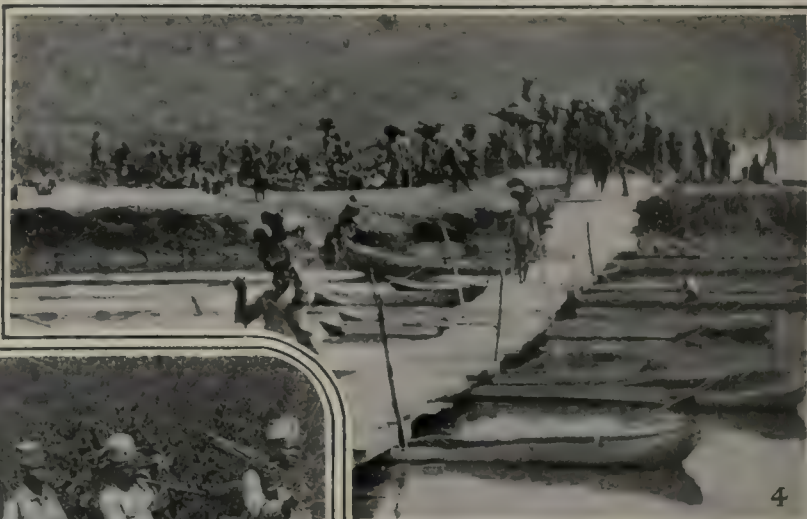
Quelques "As" Belges — A few Belgian "Aces"



Notre cinquième arme, dont l'excellente organisation est bien connue, compte de nombreux "as". 1 et 2. Les aviateurs Glibert (mort au champ d'honneur), et Crombez. 3. Le L' Coomans et le comte Pierre de Meeus (mort au champ d'honneur). 4. L' "As des As" belges : le L' Willy Coppens. 5. Le L' Tieffry (blessé et fait prisonnier). 6. Le C' Jacquet et L' Robin. 7. Un ancien : le L' Jean Olieslagers. 8. Le L' Rollin (mitrailleur), et le L' Jenatzy (pilote) à bord d'un Farman de bombardement de nuit. 9. Le L' de Meulemeester, qui, avec le Lieutenant Willy Coppens, figure en tête du palmarès des "as" belges.

Our fifth weapon admirably organised, has many "aces." 1 and 2. Airmen Glibert (fallen in action) and Crombez. 3. Lieutenant Coomans and Count Pierre de Meeus (killed in action). 4. The "Ace" among Belgian Aces: Lieutenant Willy Coppens. 5. Lieutenant Tieffry (wounded and prisoner). 6. Commandant Jacquet and Lieutenant Robin. 7. Lieutenant Jean Olieslagers. 8. Lieutenant Rollin (gunner) and Lieutenant Jenatzy (pilot) on a night-bombing Farman machine. 9. Lieutenant de Meulemeester, following Lieutenant Willy Coppens on the list of victories.

La Guerre Africaine — The African War



En août 1914, la Belgique n'était pas préparée à la guerre en Afrique. Elle ne le fut qu'en mars 1916. A cette époque, en liaison avec les forces britanniques, nos troupes passèrent à l'offensive et se mirent à la poursuite de l'ennemi. 1. Une pièce S'-Chamond allant prendre position. 2. Un convoi de munitions. 3. Deux ponts parallèles construits par le service du génie des troupes noires. 4. Un pont sur pirogues. 5. Sections de mitrailleuses dans la brousse. 6. Une colonne de porteurs près de Mahengé. 7. Avant-garde près de Dodoma. 8. Un poste volant de T. S. F. 9. Un des hydravions du lac Tanganika.

In August 1914, Belgium was not prepared for war in Africa. She was not ready till March 1916. From that date, our troops working in conjunction with the British, went over to the offensive and began to chase the enemy successfully. 1. A Saint-Chamond gun being brought into position. 2. A convoy of ammunition. 3. Two parallel bridges built by the native engineers. 4. A bridge on canoes. 5. Machine gun section in the bush. 6. A party of carriers near Mahengé. 7. Vanguard near Dodoma. 8. A flying wireless post 9. One of the numerous Seaplanes on lake Tanganika.

Nos Chefs et nos Soldats — Leaders and Soldiers



Le maréchal Foch, commandant en chef des troupes alliées sur le front occidental a tenu à visiter nos lignes en même temps qu'à récompenser les vainqueurs des récents combats. 1. Le Roi et le M^r Foch passent une revue. 2. Le Roi s'était rendu à la rencontre du commandant en chef. 3. Les troupes belges défilent. 4. Le M^r Foch décore le L^e-G^e Gillain, chef d'état-major de l'armée belge. 5. Le Roi, le M^r Foch, le L^e-G^e Gillain et leur suite sur la route. 6. Le maréchal Foch décorant des officiers et soldats. Au centre, le maréchal Foch photographié lors d'une visite à la villa royale de La Panne.

Field-Marshal Foch, the Generalissimo of the allied armies on the Western front, has visited our lines and rewarded the victors of recent fights. 1. The King and Field-Marshal Foch holding a review. 2. The King going to meet the Generalissimo. 3. March past of Belgian troops. 4. Field-Marshal Foch decorating Lieutenant-General Gillain, Chief of Staff of the Belgian army. 5. The King, Field-Marshal Foch, Lieutenant-General Gillain and suite on the road. 6. Field-Marshal Foch decorating officers and soldiers. In the centre, Field-Marshal Foch photographed at the Royal villa in La Panne.

L'Occupation Belge — The Belgian Occupation



Les troupes belges ont pris une part glorieuse à la conquête de l'Est-Africain allemand, gage d'une grande valeur pour les Alliés. 1 et 2. Les forts de Mahengé et de Kigali occupés par nos troupes. 3. Le "Kaiserhof" de Tabora transformé par les Belges en hôpital pour Européens. 4. Revue du 8^e bataillon colonial belge dans la région de Kilossa. 5. Un détachement. 6. Une revue à Kamwezi. 7. Après la conquête de l'E. A. A. : la délégation belge du corps d'occupation reçoit à Tabora, qui était la capitale de guerre allemande, le général Malfeyt, commissaire royal des territoires occupés.

The Belgian troops have borne a glorious part in the conquest of German East Africa, a valuable pawn in the hands of the Allies. 1 and 2. The forts of Mahengé and Kigali occupied by our troops. 3. The "Kaiserhof" at Tabora turned into a hospital for Europeans by the Belgians. 4. Review of the XIIIth Belgian Colonial Battalion in the vicinity of Kilossa. 5. A Detachment. 6. Review at Kamwezi. 7. After the conquest of German East Africa, the Belgian delegacy of the occupying force receiving G. Malfeyt, Royal Commissioner for the occupied territories in Tabora, the former German war capital.

Leggende delle Illustrazioni tradutto in Italiano

1. - La Fiandra in rovina. ...Ahimé! Perché crollasse, ahimé! fu necessario — che un popolo discendesse fino al delitto assoluto, — e, negando la fierezza e l'orgoglio della guerra, — si facesse proditoriamente e bassamente incendiario...

ÉMILE VERHAEREN.

2. - La Famiglia Reale. Il Re e la Regina : amminirevoli e chiare figure che, in questa crisi patetica della civiltà, hanno incarnato agli occhi di tutto il mondo l'idea di Patria, di Giustizia e di Diritto. Dalla dichiarazione di guerra, ambedue si sono moltiplicati, vivendo in mezzo ai nostri gloriosi difensori e stabilendosi su questa terra di Fiandra preservata dalla macchia dell'invasione. Non vi è un posto pericoloso che essi non abbiano visitato, e spesso volarono sulle linee. Il Principe Leopoldo non li ha lasciati; il Principe Charles-Théodore è nella marina inglese, e la Principessa Marie-José si trova a Firenze.

3. - Alla Villa Reale. Durante il loro soggiorno in una modesta Villa di La Panne, il Re e la Regina dei Belgi hanno ricevuto varie volte le visite di Sovrani e di Capi di Stati alleati. 1. La visita del Presidente della Repubblica francese Poincaré. 2. Poincaré ed il Re passano una rivista. 3. Il Re d'Inghilterra e il Re dei belgi. 4. Dinanzi alla Villa Reale, di fronte al mare, il Re d'Inghilterra e il gen. de Ceuninck. 5. La Famiglia Reale assiste alla cerimonia. 6. Il Re d'Italia ed il Re dei Belgi partono per visitare il fronte della Fiandra. 7. Le felicitazioni del Re e della Regina. 8. La Regina prende fotografie; dietro a Lei, i Principi Leopoldo e Charles, la Principessa Marie-José ed il Principe di Galles.

4. - A Sainte-Adresse. L'incantevole spiaggia di Sainte-Adresse è divenuta la capitale del Belgio in esilio. Dall'ottobre 1914 vi si svolsero numerose cerimonie. 1. L'anniversario della battaglia dell'Yser; la rappresentanza dei reggimenti belgi. 2 e 3. Il saluto alla bandiera. 4. Il Palazzo dei Ministri. 5. Il defunto Schollaert, presidente della Camera, decora i mutilati di guerra. 6. L'Hôtelier di Sainte-Adresse, residenza dei membri del Governo. 7. Il Ministro delle Colonie, Renkin, dà il benvenuto agli ufficiali belgi che tornano dall'Africa. 8. Durante una cerimonia: Ministri e generali belgi salutano la bandiera. 9. Veduta generale di Sainte-Adresse.

5. - Il Governo belga. I Ministri belgi, che avevano lasciato Bruxelles e si erano recati ad Anversa, dopo i progressi dell'invasione tedesca, seguirono il Re a Ostenda, da dove si trasferirono a Sainte-Adresse-Le Havre, ove oggi sono raggruppati la maggior parte dei loro uffici ministeriali. Dal mese di ottobre 1914, il Governo belga riceve l'ospitalità della Francia. Presieduto fino al giugno 1918 dal barone de Broqueville, esso ha subito vari rimasti durante la guerra, come tutti i ministeri degli Stati belligeranti. Ha oggi per capo Gerard Cooreman, ex-presidente della Camera.

6 - Ieri ed oggi. L'antico esercito belga, quelle antiche uniformi *kaki*, ebbe anche le sue pagine di gloria. Fu esso che difese palmo a palmo le nostre città ed i nostri villaggi, fu esso che, arrestando per alcune settimane la formidabile invasione, si illustrò a Liegi, a Haelen, a Tirmont, a Termonde, a Hofstade, a Malines, a Lierre, sotto le mura di Anversa, fu esso infine che riportò la vittoria dell'Yser. Le sue vecchie uniformi, ormai storiche, sono gloriose quanto le nuove. Abbiamo qui riunito alcune scene caratteristiche della difesa del territorio, scelte fra le collezioni fotografiche che abbiamo costituito dei nostri « Soldati di ieri ».

7. - Il Comando dell' esercito. Il Re non ha lasciato il suo esercito né il suolo del suo regno durante gli anni terribili in cui le truppe belghe hanno conteso palmo a palmo al nemico il territorio nazionale. Egli fu accanto ad esse a Liegi, ad Aerschot, a Hofstade, ad Anversa, e rimase con esse nelle Fiandre. Comandante in capo dell'esercito, e assistito da un Capo di Stato Maggiore generale, il tenente generale Gillain. Il Comando delle divisioni e assicurato dai tenenti generali Jacques, Biebuyck (aiutante di campo del Re) Bernheim, Michel, Drubbel, De Witte e Ruquoy. Tutti questi capi hanno fatto le loro prove durante, a grande guerra.

8. - La Guardia dell' Yser. Dalla fine del 1914, l'esercito belga, incrollabile al suo posto, monta la guardia sulle posizioni che seppero mantenere nella battaglia dell'Yser. 1. Un posto avanzato in mezzo alle inondazioni. 2. La strada di circolazione verso il vecchio forte di Knocke. 3. Una passerella che conduce agli avamposti. 4. Un camminamento verso Dixmude. 5. Un posto pericoloso dinanzi a Dixmude. 6. Al confluenza dell'Yser e del canale dell'Yser. 7. Osservatore d'artiglieria nelle prime linee che esamina col periscopio gli effetti di un tiro di demolizione sulle trincee tedesche. 8. Sentinelle dinanzi alle rovine di Nordschoote.

9. - La difesa del fronte. Il fronte belga e saldamente stabilito. Le trincee belghe, costruite in condizioni particolarmente difficili, sono state ammirate da tutti gli specialisti. Dietro ad esse una potente artiglieria dissimula i suoi pezzi. 1. Trincee di seconda linea nella parte meridionale del fronte belga. 2. Soldati che si recano per camminamenti di comunicazione alle prime linee per dare il cambio. 3. Pezzo d'artiglieria pesante su rotaie. 4. Il Re ispeziona un treno blindato. 5. Puntamento di un mortaio. 6. Un pezzo da campagna sotto un ricovero fortificato. 7. Puntamento d'un pezzo di marina montato su ruote.

10. - La Fiandra inondata. Al momento della battaglia dell'Yser, l'esercito belga provocò una inondazione che fu un utilissimo aiuto; da allora l'acqua ricopre sempre una parte della costa fiamminga. Ecco alcuni aspetti della Fiandra inondata, che lascia a coloro che la visitano una impressione di desolazione che nulla può descrivere. 1. Un posto nel « settore acquatico ». 2. Una testa di ponte. 3. L'inondazione a Ramschappel. 4. L'inondazione nella parte meridionale del fronte. 5. Passerella che conduce agli avamposti. 6. Una veduta panoramica dell'inondazione. 7. Un avamposto. 8. La passerella del posto della fucina.

11. - La Fiandra in rovina. Tutta la nostra bella Fiandra è in rovina. Ypres e le sue meravigliose Halles, specialmente, non sono più che un mucchio di cenere. Sin dal principio delle ostilità le chiese belghe hanno particolarmente sofferto. Quelle della Fiandra sono state l'oggetto di una distruzione sistematica, come queste fotografie lo testimoniano. 1. La chiesa di Saint-Jacques Cappelle. 2. La chiesa di Notre-Dame a Nieuport. 3. La chiesa di Caeskerke. 4. La chiesa di Ramschappel. 5. La chiesa di Nordschoote. 6. La chiesa di Reninghe. 7. Il cimitero e la chiesa di Notre-Dame a Nieuport; le tombe sventrate sono pietosamente curate dai nostri soldati.

12. - L'Aviazione belga. Dal principio delle ostilità il Re non ha cessato di interessarsi particolarmente ai nostri servizi d'aviazione. 1. Il Re interroga un nostro « Asso »; il tenente Crombez che da poco si era distinto. 2. Il Re vola sulle linee nemiche. 3. Un altro « Asso », il tenente de Meulemeester. 4. Il Re decora i tenenti Tieffry e de Meulemeester; dietro ad essi, da sinistra a destra, gli aviatori Pierre Braun, de Neef, Jean Oleslagers. 5. Visita del Re d'Italia e del Re dei belgi a un centro d'aviazione; a destra, il comandante Jacquet; a sinistra il tenente Tieffry. 6. Pallone d'osservazione. 7. Squadriglia di idroplani. 8. Partenza di osservatori d'artiglieria.

13. - Alcuni " Assi " belgi. La nostra quinta Armata, di cui è ben noto l'eccellente organizzazione, conta numerosi « Assi ». 1 e 2. Gli aviatori Gilbert (morto sul campo dell'onore) e Crombez. 3. Il tenente Coomans ed il conte Pietro de Meuse (morto sul campo dell'onore). 4. Il tenente Willy Coppens. 5. Il tenente Tieffry (ferito e fatto prigioniero). 6. Il comandante Jacquet ed il tenente Robin. 7. Un anziano: il tenente Jan Oleslagers. 8. Il tenente Rollin (mitragliere) ed il tenente Jenatzy (pilota) a bordo di un Farman da bombardamento di notte. 9. Il tenente de Meulemeester.

14. - I nostri Capi ed i nostri Soldati. La simpatia e l'ammirazione che gli Stati maggiori alleati provano per l'esercito belga si è manifestata durante numerose cerimonie militari organizzate al fronte. 1. Prima di una rivista: il Re ed il gen. Pétaïn; dietro ad essi i generali Ruquoy e de Ceuninck. 2. Durante la rivista. 3. Il Re si intrattiene con il gen. Ruquoy; a destra il gen. de Ceuninck in conversazione con l'ammiraglio Ronarch ed il gen. Rouquerol. 4. Il gen. Pétaïn decora i generali de Ceuninck e Ruquoy. 5. Il Re decora alcuni ufficiali. 6. Le congratulazioni del Re. 7. Il Re parla ai vincitori dei combattimenti di Kippe. 8. Il Re decora alcuni soldati.

15. - I nostri Capi ed i nostri Soldati. Il gen. Foch, comandante in capo delle truppe alleate sul fronte occidentale volle visitare le nostre linee e nello stesso tempo ricompensare i vincitori di combattimenti recenti. 1. Il Re ed il gen. Foch passano una rivista. 2. Il Re si era recato ad incontrare il comandante in capo. 3. Le truppe belghe sfilano. 4. Il gen. Foch decora il tenente generale Gillain, capo dello Stato Maggiore dell'esercito belga. 5. Il Re, il gen. Foch, il tenente generale Gillain ed il loro seguito sulla strada. 6. Il gen. Foch decora alcuni ufficiali e soldati. Al centro il gen. Foch fotografato durante una sua visita alla Villa Reale della Panne.

16. - Le Visite reali. Le buone relazioni fra l'esercito belga e quelli alleati si sono manifestate durante numerose visite del Re ai fronti francese, italiano ed inglese. 1. Il Re, il Presidente della Repubblica ed il gen. Pétaïn al fronte francese. 2. Il Re decora il gen. Fayolle. 3. Il Re dei belgi ed il Re d'Inghilterra. 4. Il Re ed il maresciallo Douglas Haig passano in rivista la guardia d'onore. 6 e 7. Sul terreno che fino al giorno precedente era occupato dai tedeschi. 8. Il Re ed il gen. Horne. 9 e 10. Il Re percorre le rovine di un villaggio. 11. Il Re ed il gen. Pulteney.

17. - Il servizio sanitario. Riorganizzato in piena guerra, il nostro Servizio sanitario è uno dei più perfetti che vi sia fra i belligeranti. 1. Un posto di soccorso: trasporto d'un ferito. 2 e 3. L'arrivo di un ferito all' infermeria da campagna. 4. Il Re d'Italia ed il Re dei belgi visitano l'ospedale di Hoogstade guidati dal dott. Willems. 5. Gli ospedali al fronte: Cabour. 6. La Regina visita l'ospedale « L'Océan » alla Panne guidata dal dott. Depage. 7. Gli ospedali nelle retrovie: all' Havre; il laboratorio; il tenente Dandoy all' analisi ed il dott. Dujardin al microscopio. 8. La clinica di consultazione del dott. Rasquin. 10 e 11. A Londra: il « King Albert's ». Al centro il dott. Méis, I. G. S. S.

18. - I centri d'istruzione. Nei centri d'istruzione si formano le reclute del nuovo esercito. 1. Esercizi del centro d'istruzione di cavalleria di Gussus. 2. Una rivista al C. d'I. di Honfleur. 3. Sfilata di una batteria al C. d'I. di Ecu. 4. Esercizi al C. d'I. di Carantan. 5. Il tenente generale de Selliers de Moranville, Ispettore generale dell' Esercito. 6. Sfilata al C. d'I. di Parigné-l'Évêque. 7. Esercizi al C. d'I. delle mitragliatrici a Criel-s/-Mer. 8. La critica delle operazioni fatta dal tenente generale Bertrand. 9. Esercizi d'artiglieria al C. d'I. di Gravelines. 10. Esercizi di ricognizione al C. d'I. delle automobili blindate. 11 e 12. Una lezione al C. d'I. d'aviazione.

19. - La rieducazione dei mutilati. L'Istituto militare degli invalidi ed orfani di guerra di Port-Villez, fondato dal Governo belga nel 1915, è uno dei primi istituti di rieducazione dei mutilati che sia stato creato. Esso è universalmente considerato come uno stabilimento modello. 1. La preparazione delle strade dell' Istituto fatta dagli stessi mutilati. 2. Sezione d'orticoltura. 3. Gli ausiliari del genio al lavoro nella cava dell' Istituto. 4. Lo sfruttamento delle foreste. 5. I cavalli della fattoria all' allevamento. 6. Il laboratorio di pittura: imitazione del legno e del marmo. 7. Lo studio di pittura decorativa. 8. Il laboratorio di pittura sul vetro. 9. Il laboratorio di aggiustamento.

20. - I Servizi dell' Intendenza. I Servizi dell' Intendenza civile e militare sono oggetto delle più attente cure e nulla è trascurato per assicurare il loro perfetto funzionamento. 1. Al Ministero dell' Intendenza a Sainte-Adresse: il Ministro Emile Vandervelde ed i suoi collaboratori. 2. Una base di rifornimento dell' esercito nel nord della Francia. 3. Un deposito d'essenza per automobili. 4. Il caricamento di uno dei numerosi treni di rifornimento che ogni giorno partono per il fronte. 5 e 6. Vedute interna ed esterna d'un forno da campagna. 7. Preparazione di un lotto di bestiame destinato al rifornimento dell' esercito in campagna.

21. - Le Officine di guerra. Dopo la battaglia dell' Yser, il Governo belga decise di creare varie officine di guerra che funzionano da quest' epoca con generale soddisfazione e che costituiscono un notevole esempio di organizzazione improvvisata. 1. Una officina di riparazione dell' arsenale di costruzione automobili (A. C. A.). 2. Aggiustamento dei cannoni da 105 Schneider nell' arsenale di costruzione del materiale d'artiglieria (A. C. M. A.). 3. Le officine di fabbricazione di munizione (A. F. M.) la toritura della granate. 4. La colata dell' acciaio. 5. La stampatura delle granate. 6. L'officina di controllo delle granate. 7. Il laboratorio di pittura dei cannoni di tutti i calibri.

22. - Le Colonie scolastiche. Le cure del Governo per i profughi sono state egualmente sollecite per i grandi e per i piccoli. 1. L'arrivo di fanciulli in una colonia. 2. La Colonia di Criquetot: la toilette dei piccoli ricoverati. 3. La colonia di Campeaux: la scuola nelle baracche. 4. La colonia di Yvetot: il refettorio. 5. I più piccoli della colonia di Malaise a passeggio. 6. La colonia di Saint-Paer: le piccole merlette al lavoro. 7. La colonia di Malaise: la scuola all' aperto durante una visita della Signora Carton de Wiart. 8. I piccoli giovanetti della colonia d'Yvetot. 9. I fanciulli sulla riva del mare in Normandia.

23. - L'opera di soccorso. La C. R. B. ed il C. N. S. A. hanno assicurato la sussistenza della popolazione nel territorio occupato. L'opera realizzata assicura a coloro che l'hanno organizzata, e che la dirigono con tanto zelo, la riconoscenza universale. 1. In una cantina: il pasto delle donne e dei fanciulli poveri. 2. In attesa della zuppa. 3. Un ristorante per fanciulli. 4 e 5. La visita medica ai fanciulli. 6, 7 e 8. A Rotterdam: il trasbordo delle granaglie sui barconiche le trasportano nel Belgio sui canali. 9. L'arrivo della zuppa e del pane in un locale di distribuzione. 10. Il « Pôle Nord » a Bruxelles trasformato in magazzino di vestiario. 11. Un laboratorio.

24. - Alcune grandi figure. Ci è impossibile di riprodurre l'immagine di tutti coloro che nel territorio occupato hanno incarnato la resistenza all' invasore, di tutti coloro che nell' esilio hanno portato al Governo l'appoggio del loro zelo e della loro competenza. Abbiamo qui riunito le fotografie di alcune alte personalità che nel Belgio invaso hanno assicurato l'alimento morale e materiale alle popolazioni, e di coloro che, in esilio, sono stati zelanti collaboratori del Governo della difesa nazionale. Lo spazio non mancherà più tardi per assegnare a tutti coloro che si dedicarono alla Patria il posto che meritano negli annali della guerra.

25. - Il Corpo Diplomatico. Quando il Governo ha lasciato Bruxelles, la maggior parte dei rappresentanti delle Potenze alleate e neutrali l'hanno accompagnato dapprima ad Anversa e poi a Sainte-Adresse-Le Havre. Il Ministro degli Stati Uniti, Brand Whitlock, che era rimasto a Bruxelles, ove ha reso alla popolazione belga i più segnalati servizi, ha raggiunto il Governo belga quando gli Stati Uniti sono entrati in guerra. Il Ministro di Spagna è ancora nel Belgio invaso ove continua ad occuparsi delle opere di assistenza e di vettovagliamento. Si può dire che il Belgio in esilio ha continuato a vivere una vita diplomatica quasi normale.

26. - Il Congo belga. Mentre organizzava la difesa della sua colonia e collaborava alla conquista dei territori nemici, il Belgio ha proseguito la valorizzazione del vasto dominio che gli è stato legato dal genio di Leopoldo II. Sono state prese misure perché il Congo, che non ha cessato di svilupparsi durante la guerra possa apportare, appena liberato il territorio della Metropoli, un aiuto all' opera della ricostituzione. Questa questione, di vitale importanza per il paese, è l'oggetto di preoccupazioni costanti da parte del Ministro delle Colonie e dei suoi collaboratori. Le nostre fotografie rappresentano un mercato indigeno a Kassongo ed un posto della Colonia: Ponthierville.

27. - Lo sforzo coloniale. A malgrado della guerra, il Congo ha continuato a vivere una vita normale, e la riorganizzazione iniziata prima delle ostilità è stata continuata senza posa. 1. La stazione dello Stato a Lula: giardini e piantagioni di caffè all' ombra. 2. Villaggio ed abitazione di un Capo indigeno ai Bangalas (Lisala). 3. A Elisabethville: il viale Elisabeth e la casa dell' Ispettore di Stato. 4. Mandrie di montoni nel Katentania (Katanga): migliaia d'animali sono stati importati dopo il 1914. 5. L'espansione industriale ed economica del Congo; queste installazioni di una Società belga stabilita a Elisabethville (Katanga) danno un' idea dell' opera compiuta.

28. - Lo sforzo coloniale. Mentre le nostre truppe cooperavano brillantemente alla conquista dell' Africa orientale tedesca, lo sforzo coloniale non si è rallentato un solo istante: le nostre fotografie lo dimostreranno abbondantemente. 1. La Ferrovia dei Grandi Laghi africani alla stazione di Ponthierville. 2. Il lavoro nelle miniere d'oro di Kilo (Ituri). 3. Costruzione di una ferrovia. 4. Cannoni da 160 mm. della difesa di Albertville. 6. Un esploratore sul lago di Tanganika: il motoscafo-silurante « Netta ». 6. Il « Baron Dhanis » costruito in Africa durante la guerra è destinato ai trasporti sul lago Tanganika. 7. La « Ville de Bruxelles » a Isangi (Foce del Lomani).

29. - La Conquista dell' Africa orientale tedesca. Fu la Germania che cominciò la guerra in Africa, come in Europa, attaccando le nostre truppe a Lukuga, porto belga sul lago di Tanganika, il 22 agosto, 1914. Mal giunte incolpe, poiché tutti i suoi immensi territori, che rappresentano un valore inestimabile, le furono successivamente tolti dalle truppe belghe in cooperazione con le forze inglesi. Alla carte di guerra dei nostri nemici gli alleati potranno opporre più tardi la carta coloniale, e questa sarà tutta a loro vantaggio. F' da rendere omaggio ai Capi che hanno diretto queste operazioni con uno spirito di decisione che è da tutti ammirato.

30. - La guerra africana. Nell' agosto del 1914 il Belgio non era preparato alla guerra in Africa. Esso non lo fu che nel marzo del 1916. A quest' epoca, in collegamento con le forze britanniche, le nostre truppe passarono all' offensiva e si posero all' inseguimento del nemico. 1. Un pezzo St-Chamond va a prendere posizione. 2. Un convoglio di munizioni. 3. Due ponti paralleli costruiti dai servizi del Genio delle truppe nere. 4. Un punto di piroghe. 5. Sezioni di mitragliatrici nella boscaglia. 6. Una colonna di portatori presso Mahengé. 7. Avanguardia presso Dodoma. 8. Un posto volante di T. S. F. 9. Un idroplano del lago Tanganika.

31. - La guerra africana. Le nostre truppe dovettero sostenere numerosi combattimenti. Ciascuno fu un successo per i nostri che, in collegamento stretto con l'esercito britannico, compirono la conquista di tutta l'Africa orientale tedesca. 1. Compagnia ciclisti che formano avanguardia. 2. Soldati indigeni in pattuglia. 3 e 4. Fucili indigeni e mitragliatrici in azione durante un combattimento a Lulunguru. 5. In ricognizione. 6. Una batteria di mortai in azione durante i combattimenti di Itaga. 7. Un pezzo leggero in azione nella regione di Kilossa. 8. Pattuglia ciclista in ricognizione. 9. Batteria da 70 St-Chamond in azione presso Mahengé.

32. - L'occupazione belga. Le truppe belghe hanno avuto una gloriosa parte nella conquista dell' Africa orientale tedesca; pegno di grande valore per gli alleati. 1 e 2. I forti di Mahengé e di Kigali occupati dalle nostre truppe. 3. Il « Kaiserhof » di Tabora trasformato dai belgi in Ospedale per gli europei. 4. Rivista del XIII° battaglione coloniale belga nella regione di Kilossa. 5. Un distaccamento. 6. Una rivista a Kamwezi. 7. Dopo la conquista dell' Africa orientale tedesca: la delegazione belga del Corpo d'occupazione riceve a Tabora, che era la capitale di guerra tedesca, il generale Malfeyt, Commissario Reale dei territori occupati.

Legendas das Gravuras vertidas para a Lingua Portuguesa

1. - Flandres em Ruínas. ... Ai! Para que desmoronasse, foi mister que um povo descesse até o antro do crime e que, renunciando á altivez e á nobreza na guerra, pegasse, traidor e vilão, no facho incendiário.

EMILE VERHAEREN.

2. - A Família Real. O Rei e Rainha : dous vultos admiráveis e deslumbrantes, que, nesta crise pathetica da civilização, encarnaram, nos olhos do mundo inteiro, a idea da Patria, da Justiça e do Direito. Desde a declaração da guerra, ambos estão vivendo no meio de nossos gloriosos defensores : escolheram para morada aquella terra de Flandres, virgem ainda do contacto dos oppressores. Apparecem, seguidamente nos sitios mais expostos : voam por cima da linha belga. O príncipe Leopoldo não se separa de seus paes : o príncipe Carlos-Theodoro serve na marinha inglesa e a princeza Maria-José está em Florença.

3. - Na " Villa Real ". Na sua humilde « villa » na La Panne, o Rei e a Rainha dos Belgas recebem frequentemente a visita dos Soberanos e dos Chefes dos paizes alliados. 1. O Sr. Poincaré. 2. O Sr. Poincaré e o Rei assistindo a um parada das tropas. 3. O Rei da Inglaterra e o Rei da Belgica. 4. Defronte á « Villa Real », em face do mar, o Rei da Inglaterra entrega uma condecoração ao general de Cenninck. 5. A família real assistindo áquella cerimonia. 6. O Rei da Italia e o Rei dos Belgas seguem para visitarem a frente de Flandres. 7. Felicitações do Rei e da Rainha. 8. A Rainha sacando photographias : atraz d'ella, os príncipes Leopoldo e Carlos, a princeza Maria-José e o príncipe de Galles.

4. - Em Sainte-Adresse. A praia encantadora de Sainte-Adresse tornou-se a capital da Belgica no exilio. Ahi, desenrolaram-se, desde Outubro de 1914, muitas ceremonias. 1. O anniversario da batalha do Yser : delegações de regimentos belgas. 2 e 3. A continência á bandeira. 4. O palacio dos ministerios. 5. O fallecido sr. Schollaert, Presidente do Parlamento, entrega condecorações aos mutilados da guerra. 6. A « Hospedaria » de Sainte-Adresse, residencia dos membros do Governo. 7. O Sr. Renkin, ministro das Colonias, dá a Bemvinda aos officiaes que voltam da Africa. 8. Os ministros e generaes belgas cumprimentando o pavilhão nacional. 9. Vista geral de Sainte-Adresse.

5. - O Governo Belga. Os Ministros belgas, depois de terem abandonado Bruxellas e de se terem reunidos em Antuerpia, seguiram o Rei até Ostende, d'onde partiram para Sainte-Adresse, a sede actual da quasi totalidade das repartições ministeriaes. Desde o mez de Outubro de 1914, o Governo belga é o hospede da França. Teve, até junho de 1918, por Presidente o sr. de Broqueville e passou por varias modificações, ao instar de todos os Ministerios dos Paizes Belligerantes. Hoje tem como chefe o sr. G. Cooreman, outrora Presidente do Parlamento.

6. - Hontem e Hoje. O antigo exercito belga, aquelle que não connecia a farda kaki, teve tambem as suas paginas de gloria. Foi elle, que defendeu a palmo a palmo, as nossas cidades e aldeias, estancou, durante varias semanas, a invasão formidolosa, colheu loiros immortaes em Liège, Haelen, Tirlemont, Termonde, Hofstade, Malines, Liege, Anvers, e ganhou a batalha do Yser. As suas velhas fardas, agora historicas, são tão gloriosas como as novas. Offerecemos algumas scenas caracteristicas da defesa do territorio nacional : escolhemol-as nas collecções photographicas, que nos recordam os nossos « soldados de hontem ».

7. - O Commando do Exercito. Nunca, nos annos terriveis quando as tropas belgas defenderam o territorio nacional palmo a palmo, o Rei abandonou nem o seu exercito nem o seu reino. Bateu-se, com os seus soldados, em Liège, Aerschoot, Hofstade, Antuerpia e ficou com elles em Flandres. Commandante supremo do exercito, tem ao seu lado o Chefe do Estado-Maior, o Tenente-General Gillain. O commando das respectivas divisões está confiado aos Tenentes-Generaes Jacques, Biebuyck (ajudante de ordens do Rei), Bernheim, Michel, Drubbel, De Witte e Ruquoy. Todos estes chefes fizeram a campanha.

8. - A Guarda do Yser Desde 1914, o exercito belga, inabaiavel no seu posto, monta a guarda nas posições que defendeu victoriosamente na batalha do Yser. 1. Um posto avançado nas inundações. 2. O caminho para a velha fortaleza de Knocke. 3. Estrada de madeira conduzindo para os postos avançados. 4. Uma trincheira na cercania de Dixmude. 5. Uma posição perigosa de frente de Dixmude. 6. Na confluncia do rio e do canal Yser. 7. Observador-artilheiro em primeira linha, examinando, com o periscopio, os effeitos do tiro de destruição sobre as trincheiras allemãs. 8. Sentinellas deante das ruinas de Nordschoote.

9. - A Defesa da Frente. A frente belga está solidamente assentada. Construidas em condições especialmente difficeis, as trincheiras belgas causaram admiracão a quantos as visitarem. Atraz d'ellas, uma artilheria poderosa disfarça as suas bocas de fogo. 1. Trincheiras de segunda linha, na parte meridional da frente belga. 2. Tropas que vão render as da primeira linha. 3. Peça de artilheria pesada sobre trilhos. 4. O Rei inspecionando um trem blindado. 5. Pontaria de um morteiro. 6. Uma peça de campanha em casamata. 7. Pontaria de um canhão de marinha assestado sobre rodas.

10. - Flandres debaixo da Agua. Por occasião da batalha do Yser, os belgas chamaram para se o auxilio poderoso das aguas : e, ainda hoje, ellas cobrem grande extensão da planicie flamenga. Eis alguns aspectos de Flandres inundada, desta região que inunda de uma desolação indescriptivel a alma de quem a visitar. 1. Um posto de combate no « sector aquatico ». 2. Uma cabeça de ponte. 3. A inundação de Ramsappelle. 4. A inundação na parte meridional da frente. 5. Estrada de madeira conduzindo aos postos-avançados. 6. Uma vista panoramica da inundação. 7. Um posto-avançado. Estrada do posto da ferraria.

11. - Flandres Arruinada. Está arruinada a nossa formosa Flandres. Ypres e seus magníficos Mercados não existem mais. Foram sobretudo as igrejas belgas que tiveram que aguentar as furias da guerra. As igrejas de Flandres foram destruidas systematicamente, como o demonstram as photographias seguintes. 1. A igreja de Saint-Jacques Cappel. 2. A igreja de Nossa Senhora de Nieupoort. 3. A igreja de Caeskerke. 4. A igreja de Ramsappelle. 5. A igreja de Nordschoote. 6. A igreja de Reninghe. 7. O cemiterio e a igreja de Nossa Senhora em Nieupoort : os monumentos rasgados pelos obuzes são pieiosamente reconstruidos e adornados pelos soldados belgas.

12. - A Aviação Belga. Desde o começo das hostilidades, o Rei consagrou uma attenção intensa e incessante á aviação. 1. O Rei questionando um de nossos « as » : o Tenente Crombez que acaba de praticar uma façanha. 2. O Rei vóia em cima das linhas inimigas. 3. O Tenente Meulemeester. 4. O Rei condecorando os tenentes Tiéffry e de Meulemeester : atraz d'elles, da esquerda para a direita, os aviadores Pierre Braun, De Neef, Jan Olieslagers. 5. A visita do Rei da Italia e do Rei dos Belgas ao centro de aviação : á direita, o Comte Jacquet ; á esquerda, o Tenente Tiéffry. 6. Um aerostato de observação. 7. Uma esquadilha de hydro-aviões. 8. A partida de observadores de artilheria.

13. - Alguns " As " Belgas A nossa quinta arma, devidamente organizada, conta numerosos « as ». 1 e 2. Os aviadores Gilbert (morto no campo de honra) e Crombez. 3. O Tenente Coomans e o conde Pierre de Meewis (morto no campo de honra). 4. O Tenente Willy Coppens. 5. O Tenente Tiéffry (ferido e prisioneiro). 6. O Comte Jacquet e o Tenente Robin. 7. Um antigo : o Tenente Jan Olieslagers. 8. O Tenente Rollin (metralhador) e o Tenente Jenatzy (piloto) a bordo de um Farman de bombardeamento de noite. 9. O Tenente de Meulemeester.

14. - Os nossos Chefes e os nossos Soldados. Os Estados Maiores dos Alliados testemunharam, ao exercito belga, a sua franca admiracão e sympathia, por occasião de varias ceremonias militares, realisadas na frente. 1. Antes da parada : o Rei e o General Pétain : atraz d'elles os Generaes Ruquoy e de Cenninck. 2. A parada. 3. O Rei em palestra com o General Ruquoy : á direita o General de Cenninck e o admirante Konarch e o General Ronier. 4. O General Pétain entrega condecorações aos generaes de Cenninck e Ruquoy. 5. O Rei condecorando officiaes. 6. Parabens do Rei. 7. O Rei fala aos vencedores dos combates de Kippe. 8. O Rei condecorando soldados.

15. - Os nossos Chefes e os nossos Soldados. O General Foch, commandante supremo da frente occidental, quiz visita as nossas linhas e recompensar elle mesmo os vencedores nos ultimos combates. 1. O Rei e o General Foch passando a revista da tropas belgas. 2. O Rei ao encontro do Commandante-Chefe. 3. A parada das tropas belgas. 4. O General Foch condecorando o Tenente-General Gillain, Chefe do Estado Maior Belga. 5. O Rei, o general Foch, o tenente general Gillain e a escolta. 6. O general Foch condecora officiaes e soldados : no centro o general Foch photographado por occasião de uma visita á « Villa Real » em La Panne.

16. - As Visitas Regias. As numerosas visitas do Rei ás frentes, franceza, italiana e ingleza, attestam altamente das relações coraes do exercito belga com os exercitos alliados. 1. O Rei, o Presidente da Republica e o General Pétain na frente franceza. 2. O Rei condecorando o general Fayolle. 3. O Rei dos Belgas e o Rei da Inglaterra. 4. O Rei em visita ás posições tomadas ao inimigo. 5. O Rei e o Marechal Douglas Haig passam a revista da guarda de honra. 6 e 7. No terreno, occupado na vespera pelos allemães. 8. O Rei e o general Horne. 9 e 10. O Rei percorre as ruinas de uma aldeia. 11. O Rei e o general Pulteney.

17. - O Serviço Sanitario. Reorganizado em plena guerra, o nosso serviço sanitario é um dos mais perfeitos entre os belligerantes. 1. Um posto de socorro : evacuação de um ferido. 2 e 3. Chegada de um ferido na enfermaria de campanha. 4. O Rei da Italia e o Rei dos Belgas visitam o hospital de Hoogstade : elles são pilotados pelo medico Willems. 5. Os hospitaes da frente : Cabourg. 6. A Rainha no Hospital do Oceano em La Panne, acompanhada pelo medico Depage. 7. Os hospitaes fóra da zona perigosa : no Le Havre, o laboratorio, o tenente Dandoy na analyse e o medico Dujardin trabalhando com o microscopio. 8. Consultação do medico Rasquin. 10 e 11. Em Londres : os King Albert's. No centro, o medico Méliis I. G. S. S.

18. - Os Centros de Instrução. E' nos centros de instrução que se adentra os recrutas do novo exercito. 1. Exercício do C. I. de cavallaria de Guisnes. 2. Uma revista no C. I. de Honfleur. 3. O desfile de uma batteria no C. I. de Eu. 4. Exercícios no C. I. de Carentan. 5. O tenente general de Selliers de Moranville, Inspector Geral do Exercito. 6. O desfile no C. I. de Parigné-l'Évêque. 7. Exercícios no C. I. das metralhadoras de Criel-sur-Mer. 8. A critica das operações pelo tenente general Bertrand. 9. Exercícios de artilheria no C. I. de Gravelines. 10. Exercícios de reconhecimento no C. I. dos autos blindados. 11 e 12. A prelecção no C. I. da aviação.

19. - A Reeducação dos Mutilados. Em 1915, o Governo Belga fundou, em Port-Villez, um dos primeiros institutos militares de reeducação, creados nesta guerra pelos belligerantes. O Instituto de Port-Villez é por todos reconhecido como um estabelecimento-modelo. 1. A preparação das estradas, que conduzem ao Instituto, feita pelos proprios mutilados. 2. A secção da horticultura. 3. Auxiliares do corpo de engenharia ao trabalho no Instituto. 4. A exploração florestal. 5. Os cavallos da fazenda do estabelecimento. 6. A secção da pintura : imitação de madeira e de marmore. 7. A secção da pintura decorativa. 8. A secção da pintura em vidro. 9. A secção de ajustamento.

20. - Os Serviços da Intendencia. Os serviços da Intendencia Civil e Militar foram organizados com esmero, e funcionam com perfeição. 1. No Ministerio da Intendencia em Sainte-Adresse : o sr. Ministro Vandervelde e os seus collaboradores. 2. Uma base de abastecimento para o exercito, no Norte da França. 3. Um deposito de gasolina para automoveis. 4. Um carregamento de um trem para a frente. 5 e 6. Vistas externa e interna de uma padaria de campanha. 7. Uma tropa de gado, destinado ao abastecimento do exercito em campanha.

21. - As Usinas de Guerra. Após a batalha do Yser, o Governo Belga fundou varias usinas de guerra. Estas estão funcionando admiravelmente e constituem um modelo de organização espontanea e imprevista. 1. Uma officina de reparação no arsenal de construção automovel (A. C. A.). 2. Adaptação dos canhões 105 Schneider no arsenal de construção de artilheria (A. C. M. A.). 3. As officinas de fabricação de munições (A. F. M.) : o tornar dos obuzes. 4. A liquidação do aço. 5. O estampar dos obuzes. 6. A officina da pontaria dos obuzes. 7. A officina da pintura dos projectis.

22. - As Colonias Escolares. A sollicitude do Governo estendeu-se não só aos refugiados maiores senão aos menores. 1. A chegada das creanças n'uma colonia. 2. A colonia de Criquetot : a « toilette » dos pequerruchos. 3. A colonia de Campeaux : a aula no abarracamento. 4. A colonia de Yvetot : o refeitório. 5. Os menores da colonia de Malaise, no passeio. 6. A colonia de Saint-Paer : as pequenas operarias de rendas. 7. A colonia de Malaise, a aula no ar livre e na presença de Mme Henry Carton de Wiart. 8. Os meninos da colonia de Yvetot. 9. As creanças na beira-mar da Normandia.

23. - A Obra de Assistencia. A C. R. B. e a C. N. S. A. organizaram os soccorros á população do paiz occupado. Esta obra chammos, para os seus iniciadores e para os seus directores, a gratidão do mundo inteiro. 1. Numa cantina : a refeição das mulheres e das creanças indigentes. 2. Esperando a sopa. 3. Um restaurante para meninos. 4 e 5. O exame medico das creanças. 9, 7 e 8. Em Rotterdam : a baldeação do trigo em lanchões que, pelos canaes, transportam-no na Belgica. 9. Chegam a sopa e o pão num sitio de distribuição. 10. O « Pôle Nord » em Bruxellas, transformado em armazem de roupas. 11. Uma officina.

24. - Vultos Proeminentes. E' impossivel, por enquanto, reproduzir o retrato de todos aquelles, que, no exilio, sustentaram o Governo por sua competencia e por sua dedicação. Publicamos, aqui, as photographias de alguns vultos proeminentes, que, na Belgica, contribuíram poderosamente no sustento moral e material do povo, ou que, no exilio, cooperaram, de uma maneira particular, na Defesa Nacional. Mais tarde, em outras publicações, dar-se-á a devida menção a todos os, cujo nome tem direito a um lugar nos annaes da guerra.

25. - O Corpo Diplomatico. Na hora, quando o Governo deixou Bruxellas, quasi todos os representantes das Potencias aliadas e neutras acompanharam-nos, primeiramente em Antuerpia e depois em Sainte-Adresse-Le Havre. O ministro dos Estados-Unidos, o sr. Brand Whitlock, que ficara em Bruxellas onde prestou serviços relevantes á população, juntou-se ao Governo Belga em St. Adresse logo que o seu paiz entrou no conflicto. O ministro da Hespanha está ainda na Belgica, e continua a dedicar-se ao sustento do povo. A Belgica no exilio continua 'suas relações diplomaticas como antes da guerra.

26. - O Congo Belga. A um tempo que organisava a defesa de sua colonia e que collaborava poderosamente na conquista dos territorios inimigos, a Belgica continuou a valorisar o vasto dominio, que lhe offerecera o genio de Leopoldo II. Tomou providencias para que o Congo possa socorrer o territorio belga devastado, logo que despartar a aurora de sua libertação. Este problema, de uma importancia vital para a Belgica, preoccupa constantemente o espirito do Ministro das Colonias e de seus collaboradores. As photographias juntas representam um mercado indigena em Kassongo e um dos postos da Colonia, Ponthierville.

27. - O Esforço Colonial. Apezar da guerra, o Congo belga continua sua vida normal : organisa-se, desenvolve-se sem interrupção. 1. A estação do Estado em Lula : jardins e cafezaes. 2. Aldeia e casa de um chefe aborigene na Bangala (Lisala). 3. Elisabethville : a avenida Elisabeth e a casa dos inspectores. 4. Rebanhos de ovelhas em Katentiana (Katanga) : milhares de animaes foram já exportados. 5. A expansão industrial e economica do Congo : estabelecimentos de uma sociedade belga em Elisabethville (Katanga).

28. - O Esforço Colonial. Enquanto as nossas tropas cooperaram brilhantemente na conquista do Est Africano Allemão, o esforço colonial continuou sempre com vigor : as photographias juntas demonstram-no com evidencia. 1. A estrada de ferro dos Grandes Lagos africanos : a estação de Ponthierville. 2. O trabalho nas minas de ouro de Kilo (Ituri). 3. Construção de uma via ferrea. 4. Canhões de 160 m. da defesa de Albertville. 5. Um barco-patrolha no lago Tanganika : o carregador-torpedeira Netta. 6. O « Baron Dhanis » construido na Africa e durante a guerra : serve de transporte no lago Tanganika. 7. O « Ville de Bruxelles » no porto de Isangi (barra do Lomani).

29. - A Conquista da Africa Oriental allemã. Foi a Alemanha que iniciou a guerra na Africa como na Europa, atacando as nossas tropas em Lukunga, porto belga no lago Tanganika : foi no dia 22 de Agosto de 1914. Foi para a Alemanha uma decepção : pois que as tropas belgas, em combinação com as forças inglezas, apoderaram-se dos vastos territorios allemães de um valor incalculavel. Ao mappa de guerra de nossos inimigos, os Alliados um dia, hão de oppôr o mappa das colonias. Convem tributar homenagem aos chefes das operações na Africa.

30. - A Guerra Africana. Em Agosto de 1915, a Belgica não estava preparada para fazer uma guerra na Africa. Porém nossas tropas, em combinação com as forças britannicas, passaram para a offensiva e atiraram-se na perseguição do inimigo. 1. Um canhão St-Chamond que se vae assestar. 2. Um comboio de munições. 3. Duas pontes construidas pelo corpo de engenharia negro. 4. Uma ponte sobre pirogas. 5. Secção de metralhadoras na brenha. 6. Uma columna de cargueiros perto de Mahengé. 7. Vanguarda nas cercanias de Dodoma. 8. Posto movel da T. S. F. 9. Um dos hydro-aviões no lago Tanganika.

31. - A Guerra Africana. Nossas tropas travaram muitos combates. Em cada um foram victoriosas e, conjuntamente com os inglezes, conquistaram todo o Este Africano Allemão. 1. Uma companhia de cyclistas em vanguarda. 2. Soldados indigenas em patrulha. 3 e 4. Atiradores indigenas e metralhadoras no fogo em Lulunguru. 5. Em reconhecimento. 6. Uma batteria de morteiros em acção, no combate de Itaga. 7. Um peça atirando na região de Kilossa. 8. Uma patrulha de cyclistas em reconhecimento. 9. Uma batteria de 70 St. Chamond abrindo o fogo perto de Mahengé.

32. - A Occupação Belga. As tropas belgas desempenharam um papel saliente na conquista do Este Africano allemão. 1 e 2. As fortalezas de Mahengé e de Kigali occupadas por nossas tropas. 3. O « Kaiserhof » de Tabora transformado pelos Belgas num hospital para Europeos. 4. A revista do 13º batalhão colonial belga, na região de Kilossa. 5. Um destacamento. 6. Uma parada em Kamwezi. 7. Depois da conquista do territorio allemão, um delegação belga do corpo de occupação recebe em Tabora, a capital allemã, o general Malfeyt, o commissario regio das regiões conquistadas.

Legendas de las Estampas traducidas en Lengua Española

1. - Flandes en Ruinas. Ah! Para que se desplomase ah! ha sido necesario que un pueblo descendiese hasta el crimen absoluto. I negando la altivez y el orgullo de la guerra se hiciera traidora y bajamente incendiario ..

EMILIO VERHAEREN.

2. - La Familia Real. El Rey y la Reina : admirables y claras figuras que, en esta crisis patética de la civilización, han encarnado a los ojos del mundo entero, la idea de Patria, de Justicia y de Derecho. Desde la declaración de guerra, se han multiplicado, viviendo en medio de nuestros gloriosos defensores y estableciéndose en esta tierra de Flandes, preservada de la málcula del invasor. No hay sitio peligroso que no hayan visitado y mas de una vez planearon por encima de las líneas. El Príncipe Leopoldo no las ha abandonado ; el Príncipe Carlos-Teodoro está en la Marina inglesa y la Princesa Maria-José en Florencia.

3. - En la villa Real. Durante su estancia en una sencilla villa de La Panne, el Rey y la Reina de los Belgas han recibido varias veces la visita de Soberanos y Jefes de Estados aliados. 1. La visita del Sr. Poincaré. 2. El Sr. Poincaré y el Rey pasando una revista. 3. El Rey de Inglaterra y el Rey de los Belgas. 4. Ante la Villa real, cara al mar, el Rey de Inglaterra, condecora al General de Cuninck. 5. La Familia Real asiste a la ceremonia. 6. El Rey de Italia y el Rey de los Belgas saliendo a visitar el frente de Flandes. 7. Las felicitaciones del Rey y de la Reina. 8. La Reina fotografía ; detrás de ella, los Príncipes Leopoldo y Carlos, la Princesa Maria-José y el Príncipe de Gales.

4. En Sainte-Adresse. La encantadora playa de Sainte-Adresse se ha convertido en capital de la Bélgica en destierro. Numerosas ceremonias tienen lugar allí desde Octubre de 1914. 1. El aniversario de la batalla del Iser : las delegaciones de los regimientos belgas. 2 y 3. El saludo a la bandera. 4. El Palacio de los Ministerios. 5. El difunto Sr. Schollaert, Presidente de la Cámara, condecorando a mutilados de la guerra. 6. La Casa de Sainte-Adresse, morada de los miembros del Gobierno. 7. El Sr. Renkin, ministro de las Colonias, dando la bienvenida a los oficiales que regresan de Africa. 8. Durante una ceremonia : ministros y generales belgas saludando la bandera. 9. Vista general de Sainte-Adresse.

5. - El Gobierno Belga. Los ministros belgas que habian salido de Bruselas y al principio se habian encontrado reunidos en Amberes, después de los progresos de la invasión alemana, siguieron al Rey a Ostende, de donde se trasladaron a Sainte-Adresse-Le Havre, donde están actualmente agrupados la mayoría de sus despachos ministeriales. Desde el mes de Octubre de 1914, el Gobierno belga recibe la hospitalidad de Francia. Presidido hasta Junio de 1918 por el Sr. de Broqueville, ha sufrido diversas modificaciones durante el curso de la guerra, como todos los Ministerios de los Estados beligerante. Tiene hoy por jefe al Sr. G. Cooreman, ex-Presidente de la Cámara.

6. - Ayer y Hoy. El antiguo Ejército belga, el anterior al uniforme kaki, tuvo tambien sus páginas de gloria. Fué el que defendió palmo a palmo nuestras ciudades y nuestras aldeas, fué el que deteniendo durante algunas semanas la formidable invasión se cubrió de gloria en Lieja, Haelen, Tirlemont, Termonde, Hofstade, Lierre, ante los muros de Amberes, fué enfín el que obtuvo la victoria del Iser. Sus antiguos uniformes ya « históricos » son tan gloriosos como los nuevos. Hemos reunido aqui algunas escenas características de la defensa del territorio escogidas entre las colecciones fotográficas que hemos constituido de nuestros « Soldados de ayer ».

7. - El Mando del Ejército. El Rey no ha abandonado su Ejército ni el suelo de su reino durante los años terribles en que las tropas belgas han disputado palmo al palmo al enemigo el territorio nacional. Estuvo al lado de ellas en Lieja, Aerchot, Hofstade, Amberes y permaneció entre ellas en Flandes. Comandante en Jefe del Ejército, está asistido de un Jefe de Estado Mayor general, que es el Teniente General Gillain. El mando de las divisiones está asegurado por los Tenientes Generales Jacques, Biebuyck (ayudante de campo del Rey), Bernheim, Michel, Drubbel, De Witte, y Ruquoy. Todos estos jefes han hecho sus pruebas durante la gran guerra.

8. - La Guardia del Iser. Desde fin de 1914 el Ejército belga inquebrantable en su puesto monta la guardia en las posiciones que supo mantener cuando la batalla del Iser. 1. Un puesto avanzado en medio de las inundaciones. 2. El camino de circulación hacia e viejo fuerte de Knocke. 3. Un puente que conduce a los puestos avanzados. 4. Un ramal hacia Dixmude. 5. Un puesto peligroso ante Dixmude. 6. En la confluencia del Isery del canal del Iser. 7. Observador de artillería en las primeras líneas examinando con el periscopio los efectos de un tiro de demolición contra las trincheras alemanas. 8. Centinela ante las ruinas de Nordschoote.

9. - La Defensa del Frente. El frente belga está solidamente establecido. Las trincheras belgas construidas en condiciones especialmente difíciles, han sido la admiración de todos los especialistas. Detrás de ellas, una poderosa artillería disimula sus piezas. 1. Trincheras de segunda línea en la parte meridional del frente belga. 2. Un relevo dirigiéndose a las trincheras de primera línea por los ramales de comunicación. 3. Pieza de artillería pesada sobre el rail. 4. El Rey inspeccionando el tren blindado. 5. Ajuste de un mortero. 6. Una pieza de campaña en guarida acasamatada. 7. Dimensión de una pieza de marina montada sobre ruedas.

10. - Flandes Inundado. En el momento de la batalla del Iser, el Ejército belga tendió una inundación cuyo concurso fué de lo mas útil : desde entonces la avalancha continua cubriendo una parte de la costa flamenca. He aquí algunos aspectos de Flandes inundado, que deja a los que lo visitan una impresión de desolación que no puede describirse. 1. Un puesto en el « sector acuático ». 2. Una cabeza de puente. 3. La inundación en Ramsappelle. 4. La inundación el la parte meridional del frente. 5. Puesto que conduce a los puestos avanzados. 6. Vista panorámica de la inundación. 7. Un puesto avanzado. 8. El puente del pusto de fragua.

11. - Flandes en Ruinas. Todo nuestro bello Flandes está en ruinas. Iprés y especialmente sus edificios maravillosos no son mas que un montón de cenizas. Desde la iniciación de las hostilidades, las iglesias belgas han sufrido especialmente. Las de Flandes han sido objeto de una destrucción sistemática, como dan testimonio de ello estas varias fotografías. 1. La iglesia de Saint-Jacques Cappelle. 2. La iglesia de Nuestra Señora en Nieuport. 3. La iglesia de Caeskerke. 4. La iglesia de Ramsappelle. 5. La iglesia de Nordschoote. 6. La iglesia de Reninghe. 7. El cementerio y la iglesia de Nuestra Señora en Nieuport : las tumbas removidas son piadosamente cuidadas por nuestros soldados.

12. - La Aviación Belga. Desde el principio de las hostilidades, el Rey no ha cesado de interesarse especialmente por nuestros servicios de aviación. 1. El Rey interrogando a uno de nuestros « as » : el Teniente Crombez que acaba de distinguirse. 2. El Rey planeando las líneas enemigas. 3. Otro « as » : el Teniente de Menlemeister. 4. El Rey condecora a los Tenientes Tieffry y de Meulemeister ; detrás de ellos, de izquierda a derecha, los aviadores Pedro Braun, De Neef, Jan Olleslagers. 5. Visita del Rey de Italia y del Rey de los belgas a un centro de aviación : a derecha el Capitán Jacquet ; a la izquierda el Teniente Tieffry. 6. Globo de observación. 7. Escuadrilla de hidro-aviones. 8. Marcha de los observadores de artillería.

13. - Algunos "As" Belgas. Nuestra quinta arma, cuya perfecta organización es perfectamente conocida, cuenta con numerosos « as ». 1 y 2. Los aviadores Gilbert (muerto en el campo del honor) y Crombez. 3. El Teniente Coomans y el conde Pedro de Meus (muerto en el campo del honor). 4. El Teniente Willy Coppens. 5. El Teniente Tieffry (herido y hecho prisionero). 6. El Capitán Jacquet y el Teniente Robin. 7. Un antiguo : el Teniente Jan Olleslagers. 8. El Teniente Rollin (ametrallador) y el Teniente Jenatzky (piloto) a bordo de un Farman para bombardeo de noche. 9. El Teniente de Meulemeister.

14. - Nuestros Jefes y nuestros Soldados. La simpatía y la admiración que sienten los Estados Mayores aliados por el Ejército belga se ha atestiguado durante numerosas ceremonias militares organizadas en el frente. 1. Antes de una revista : el Rey y el General Petain : detrás de ellos los Generales Ruquoy y de Cuninck. 2. Durante la revista. 3. El Rey conversando con el General Ruquoy : a la derecha, el General de Cuninck conversando con el Almirante Ronarch y el General Rucrol. 5. El Rey condecorando oficiales. 6. Las felicitaciones del Rey. 7. El Rey arenga a los vencedores de los combates de Kippe. 8. El Rey condecorando soldados.

15. - Nuestros Jefes y nuestros Soldados. El General Foch, Comandante en Jefe de las tropas aliadas en el frente occidental, se ha complacido en visitar nuestras líneas al mismo tiempo que recompensar los vencedores de los recientes combates. 1. El Rey y el General Foch pasando una revista. 2. El Rey había ido al encuentro del Comandante en Jefe. 3. Las tropas belgas desfilan. 4. El General Foch condecora al Teniente General Gillain, Jefe de Estado Mayor del Ejército belga. 5. El Rey, el General Foch, el Teniente General Gillain y su séquito, en camino. 6. El General Foch condecorando oficiales y soldados. En el centro, el General Foch fotografiado en ocasión de una visita a la Villa real de La Panne.

16. - Las Visitas Reales. Las buenas relaciones del Ejército belga y de los Ejércitos aliados se han manifestado en numerosas ocasiones. 1. El Rey y el General Petain en el frente francés. 2. E. Rey condecora al General Faville. 3. El Rey de los belgas y el Rey de Inglaterra. 4. El Rey visitando las posiciones tomadas al enemigo. 5. El Rey y el Mariscal Douglas Haig pasando revista a la guardia de honor. 6 y 7. Sobre el terreno ocupado la víspera por los alemanes. 8. El Rey y el General Horne. 9 y 10. El Rey recorriendo las ruinas de una aldea. 11. El Rey y el General Pulteney.

17. - El Servicio de Sanidad. Reorganizado en plena guerra, nuestro servicio de sanidad es uno de los mas perfectos que pueda haber entre los beligerantes. 1. Un puesto de socorros evacuación de un herido. 2 y 3. Llegada de un herido a la enfermería de campaña. 4. El Rey de Italia y el Rey de los belgas visitan el hospital de Hogstade guiados por el Dr. Willems. 5. Los hospitales del frente : Cabourg. 6. La Reina visita el hospital del Océano en La Panne guiada por el Dr. Depage. 7. Los hospitales de retaguardia : en el Havre : el laboratorio : el Teniente Dandoy en el analisis y el Dr. Dujardin en el microscopio. 8. La consulta del Dr. Rasquin. 10 y 11. En Londres : el del Rey Alberto : en el centro el Dr. Mellis. I. G. S. S.

18. - Los Centros de Instrucción. En los centros de instrucción es donde se forman los reclutas del nuevo ejército. 1. El ejercicio en el centro de instrucción de caballería de Guisnes. 2. Una revista en el centro de instrucción de Honfleur. 3. Desfile de una batería en el centro de instrucción de Eu. 4. Ejercicios en el Centro de instrucción de Carentan. 5. El Teniente General de Selliers de Moranville, Inspector general del Ejército. 6. Desfile en el centro de instrucción de Parigné-el Obispo. 7. Ejercicios en el centro de instrucción de ametralladoras de Criel de mar. 8. La critica de las operaciones por el Teniente General Bertrand. 9. Ejercicios de artillería en el centro de instrucción de Gravelines. 10. Ejercicios de reconocimiento en el centro de instrucción de autos blindados. 11 y 12. La lección en el centro de instrucción de aviación.

19. - La Reeduación de los Mutilados. El Instituto militar de inválidos y huérfanos de la guerra de Port-Villez, fundado por el Gobierno belga en 1915, es uno de los primeros institutos de reeducación de los mutilados que han sido creados. Está universalmente considerado como un establecimiento modelo. 1. El arreglo de los caminos del Instituto por los mismos mutilados. 2. Sección de horticultura. 3. Los auxiliares de ingenieros trabajando en la cantera del Instituto. 4. La explotación forestal. 5. Los caballos de la granja en el abrevadero. 6. El taller de pintura : imitación de maderas y mármoles. 7. El taller de pintura decorativa. 8. El taller de pintura sobre cristal. 9. El taller de precisión.

20. - Los Servicios de Intendencia. Los servicios de intendencia civil y militar son objeto de los mas atentos cuidados y nada se descuida para asegurar su perfecto funcionamiento. 1. En el Ministerio de Intendencia en Sainte-Adresse : el Sr. Ministro Emilio Vandervelde y sus colaboradores. 2. Una de las bases de aprovisionamiento del Ejército en el Norte de Francia. 3. Un depósito de esencia para automóviles. 4. El cargamento de uno de los numerosos trenes de aprovisionamiento que salen cada día para el frente. 5 y 6. Vistas exterior e interior de una panadería de campaña. 7. Preparación de un lote de ganado destinado al aprovisionamiento del Ejército en campaña.

21. - Las Fábricas de Guerra. Después de la batalla del Iser, el Gobierno decidió crear varias fábricas de guerra que funcionan desde aquella época a satisfacción general y constituyen un notable ejemplo de organización improvisada. 1. Uno de los talleres de reparación del arsenal de construcción de material de artillería (A. C. M. A.). 2. Los talleres de fabricación de municiones (A. F. M.) : el torneo de los obuses. 4. La fundición del acero. 5. El estampado de los obuses. 6. El taller de apunte de los obuses. 7. El taller de pintura de aparatos de todos calibres.

22. - Las Colonias escolares. La solicitud del Gobierno para con los refugiados ha sido igual para los grandes que para los pequeños. 1. Llegada de muchachos a una colonia. 2. Colonia de Criquetot : el tocado de los pequeños pensionistas. 3. Colonia de Campeaux : la clase en los alojamientos. 4. Colonia de Ivetot : el refectorio. 5. Los mas pequeños de la colonia de Malaise, de paseo. 6. Colonia de Saint-Paer : las pequeñas obreras de la blonda, en el trabajo. 7. Colonia de Malaise : la clase al aire libre durante una visita de M^{me} Carton de Wiart. 8. Los pequeñuelos de la colonia de Ivetot. 9. Los muchachos en la orilla del mar en Normandía.

23. - La Obra de Socorros. La C. R. B. y la C. N. S. A. han asegurado la subsistencia de la población del país ocupado. La obra realizada asegura el reconocimiento universal a los que la han organizado y la dirigen con tanta abnegación. 1. En una cantina : la comida de las mujeres y de los niños indigentes. 2. Esperando la sopa. 3. Un restaurant para los niños. 4 y 5. El examen médico de los niños. 6, 7 y 8. En Rotterdam : el trasbordo del grano sobre las barcasas que por los canales, lo transportan a Bélgica. 9. Llegada de la sopa y del pan a un local de distribución. 10. El « Polo Norte » en Bruselas, transformado en almacén de ropa. 11. Un obrador.

24. - Algunas Grandes Figuras. Nos es imposible reproducir los rasgos de todos los que en país ocupado han encarnado la resistencia al invasor : de todos los que en el destierro han aportado al Gobierno el apoyo de su abnegación y de su competencia. Hemos reunido aqui las fotografías de algunas de las altas personalidades que en Bélgica han sabido asegurar el aprovisionamiento moral y material, y de los que en el destierro han sido abnegados colaboradores del Gobierno de Defensa Nacional. No nos faltará luego lugar para asignar el rango que merecen en los anales de la guerra a todos los que se sacrificaron por la Patria.

25. - El Cuerpo Diplomático. En el momento en que el Gobierno salió de Bruselas, la mayoría de los representantes de las Potencias aliadas y neutrales lo acompañaron a Amberes al principio y luego a Sainte-Adresse-Le Havre. El Ministro de los Estados Unidos, Mr. Brand Whitlock, que se había quedado en Bruselas, donde prestó a la población belga los mas señalados servicios, se ha reunido con el Gobierno belga cuando la entrada en la guerra de los Estados Unidos. El Ministro de España está todavía en Bélgica, donde continua ocupándose en las obras de asistencia y aprovisionamiento. Puede decirse que Bélgica en el destierro ha continuado viviendo una vida diplomática casi normal.

26. - El Congo Belga. Sin dejar de organizar la defensa de su colonia y de colaborar en la conquista de los territorios enemigos, Bélgica ha proseguido el desarrollo del vasto dominio que le lego el genio de Leopoldo II. Se han tomado medidas para que el Congo, que no ha cesado de desarrollarse durante la guerra, pueda aportar desde la liberación del territorio, un apoyo a la obra de la reconstrucción. Esta cuestión, de importancia vital para el país, es objeto de constante preocupación del Ministro de las Colonias y de sus colaboradores. Nuestras fotografías representan un mercado indígena en Kassongo y uno de los puestos de la colonia : Ponthierville.

27. - El Esfuerzo Colonial. A pesar de la guerra, el Congo ha continuado viviendo su vida normal y se ha proseguido sin tregua la reorganización emprendida antes de las hostilidades. 1. La estación del Estado en Lulu : jardines y cafetales bajo la sombra. 2. Aldea y habitación de un jefe indígena en Bangalas (Lisala). 3. En Elisabethville : el boulevard Elisabeth y la casa de los Inspectores del Estado. 4. Rebaños de carneros en Katantania : millones de animales han sido importados desde 1914. 5. La expansión industrial y económica del Congo : estas instalaciones de una sociedad belga establecida en Elisabethville (Katanga) dan una idea de la obra realizada.

28. - El Esfuerzo Colonial. Mientras nuestras tropas cooperaban brillantemente a la conquista del Este Africano alemán, el esfuerzo colonial no ha disminuido un instante : nuestras fotografías lo prueban sobreabundantemente. 1. El camino de hierro de los Grandes Lagos fricanos a la estación de Ponthierville. 2. El trabajo en las minas de oro de Kilo (Ituri). 3. Construcción de una vía ferrea. 4. Cañones de 160 m. m. de la Defensa de Albertville. 5. Un patrullador sobre el lago Tanganika : el torpedero Netta. 6. El « Baron Dians » construido en Africa durante la guerra destinado a transportes sobre el lago Tanganika. 7. El « Villa de Bruselas » en Isangi (embocadura de Lomni).

29. - La Conquista del Africa Oriental alemana. Fué Alemania la que comenzó la guerra, en Africa como en Europa, atacando a nuestras tropas en Lakuga, puerto belga en el lago Tanganika, desde el 22 de agosto de 1914. Mal le resultó, pues todos sus inmensos territorios que representan un valor inestimable, le fueron sucesivamente tomados por las tropas belgas, en cooperación con las fuerzas inglesas. Al mapa de la guerra de nuestros enemigos, los aliados podrán oponer mas tarde el mapa colonial y éste redundará en ventaja suya. Conviene rendir homenaje a los jefes, que han dirigido estas operaciones con un espíritu de decisión que ha sido la admiración de todos.

30. - La Guerra Africana. En agosto de 1914, Bélgica no estaba preparada para la guerra en Africa. No lo estuvo hasta marzo de 1916. En esta época, en conjunción con las fuerzas británicas, nuestras tropas pasaron a la ofensiva y emprendieron la persecución del enemigo. 1. Una pieza St-Chamond yendo a tomar posición. 2. Un convoy de municiones. 3. Dos puentes paralelos construidos por el servicio de ingenieros de las tropas negras. 4. Un puente sobre piraguas. 5. Sección de ametralladoras en la maleza. 6. Una columna de portantes cerca de Mahengé. 7. Vanguardia cerca de Dodoma. 8. Un puesto ambulante de T. S. F. 8. Uno de los hidro-aviones de lago Tanganika.

31. - La Guerra Africana. Nuestras tropas tuvieron que sostener numerosos combates Cada uno de ellos fué un éxito para los nuestros que, en conjunción estrecha con el Ejército británico, han rematado la conquista de todo el Este Africano alemán. 1. Compañía ciclista formando vanguardia. 2. Soldados indígenas en patrulla. 3 y 4. Tiradores indígenas y ametralladoras en acción durante el combate de Lulanguu. 5. En reconocimiento. 6. Una batería de morteros en acción durante los combates de Itaga. 7. Una pieza ligera en acción en la región de Kilossa. 8. Patrulla ciclista en reconocimiento. 9. Batería St-Chamond 70 en acción cerca de Mahengé.

32. - La Ocupación Belga. Las tropas belgas han tenido gloriosa parte en la conquista del Este Africano alemán, prenda de gran valor para los aliados. 1 y 2. Los fuertes de Mahengé y de Kigalli ocupados por nuestras tropas. 3. El « Kaiserhof » de Tabora transformado por los belgas en hospital para europeos. 4. Revista del XIII^o batallón colonial belga en la región de Kilossa. 5. Un destacamento. 6. Una revista en Kamwezi. 7. Después de la conquista del Este Africano alemán : la delegación belga del cuerpo de ocupación recibe en Tabora, que era la capital de guerra alemana, al general Malfeyt, Comisario regio de los territorios ocupados.

Bilderverzeichnis in deutscher Sprache

1. - Das Zertrümmerte Flandern. ...Sein Sturz war leider nur möglich weil ein ganzes Volk zum Verräter wurde und, den Stolz des Krieges verspottend, an hinterlistiger Brandstiftung Gefallen fand.

EMILE VERHAEREN.

2. - Die Königsfamilie. Der König und die Königin: diese herrlichen Figuren haben in jetziger Kulturkrisis in den Augen der ganzen Welt die Gedanken verkörpert von Vaterland, Gerechtigkeit und Recht. Von Kriegsausbruch an haben beide immer opferbereit bei unseren tapferen Verteidigern auf jenem Boden Flanderns den zu besetzen es dem Eroberer nicht gelungen ist. Alle gefährliche Posten haben sie besucht und oft haben sie die feindlichen Stellungen überflogen. Prinz Leopold hat sie nicht verlassen; Prinz Karl Theodor dient bei der Englischen Marine und Prinzessin Marie-José ist in Firenze.

3. - Auf der königlichen Villa. Während ihres Aufenthalts in einer einfachen Villa in De Panne wurden der König und die Königin mehrmals durch verbundene Fürsten und Staatsoberhäupter besucht. 1. Besuch des Herrn Poincaré. 2. Herr Poincaré und der König nehmen die Revue ab. 3. Der König von England und der König der Belgier. 4. Am Strande vor der königlichen Villa dekoriert der König von England General de Ceuninck. 5. Die königliche Familie während der Feierlichkeiten. 6. Der König von Italien und der König der Belgier treten ihren Frontbesuch in Flandern an. 7. Die Glückwünsche des Königs und der Königin. 8. Die Königin macht Aufnahmen; hinter ihr die Prinzen Leopold und Karl, Prinzessin Marie-José und der Fürst von Wales.

4. - In Sainte-Adresse. Der reizende Strand von Sainte-Adresse ist die Hauptstadt des exilierten Belgiens geworden. Seit Oktober 1914 fanden zahlreiche Feierlichkeiten statt. 1. Am Jahrestag der Yserschlacht: die Abordnung von den belgischen Regimentern. 2. und 3. Der Gruss an die Fahne. 4. Das Ministergebäude. 5. Der verstorbene Kammerpräsident F. Schollwert erteilt Auszeichnungen an Kriegsgeschädigten. 6. Die Hotelierin von Sainte-Adresse, Wohnsitz der Regierungsmitglieder. 7. Der Kolonialminister Herr Renkin begrüsst aus Afrika zurückgekehrte Offiziere. 8. Während einer Feierlichkeit: belgische Minister und Generale grüssen die Fahne. 9. Gesamtansicht von Sainte-Adresse.

5. - Die belgische Regierung. Die belgischen Minister die von Brüssel nach Antwerpen waren übersiedelt, folgten dem König nach Ostende, nach dem Anmarsch der deutschen Truppen. Von Ostende kamen sie nach Sainte-Adresse-Le Havre wo jetzt die meisten Ministerialämter tätig sind. Seit Oktober 1914 geniesst Belgien die Gastfreundschaft Frankreichs. Mit dem Herrn de Broqueville, bis zum Juni 1918 an der Spitze, erlebte die belgische Regierung, wie jene aller kriegführenden Staaten, verschiedene Wechsel während des Krieges. Jetzt ist Herr G. Cooreman, vormaliger Kammerpräsident, Haupt der Regierung.

6. - Einst und Jetzt. Die alte belgische Armee, noch ehe sie in khaki ausgestattet wurde, hat auch Ruhmestage erlebt. Sie war es die in zähen Kämpfen unsere Dörfer und Städte verteidigte, durch ihren Widerstand gegen die furchtbare Invasion den höchsten Ruhm erntete bei Lüttich, Haelen, Thienen, Dendermonde, Hofstade, Mecheln, Lier und vor Antwerpen und schließlich den Sieg an der Yser davontrug. Ihre alten Uniformen sind hinter so vornehmlich wie die Neuen. Wir haben hier einige treffende Bilder versammelt von der Verteidigung des Gebietes. Diese Bilder gehören den photographischen Sammlungen an welche sich auf unsere Soldaten von gestern beziehen.

7. - Die Heerführung. Der König hat entweder seine Armee noch den Boden seines Reiches verlassen in jenen Schreckensjahren während deren die belgischen Truppen den letzten Streifen vaterländischen Bodens dem Feinde streitig machten. Er stand bei seinen Truppen in Lüttich, Aerschot, Hofstade, Antwerpen und blieb bei ihnen in Flandern. Als Oberbefehlshaber der Armee steht ihm ein Generalstabschef zur Seite: dieser ist Generalleutnant Gilliam. An der Spitze der Divisionen stehen die Generalleutnants Jacques, Diebuycq (Flugadjutant des Königs), Bernheim, Michel, Drubbel, De Witte und Ruequoy. Sämtliche Führer haben sich glänzend in diesen Kriegen bewährt.

8. - Die Wacht an der Yser. Seit Ende 1914 steht das belgische Heer unerschüttert auf seinem Posten, in den Stellungen die es in der Yserschlacht beehauptet hat. 1. Ein vorgeschobener Posten im Uberschwemmungsgebiet. 2. Der Weg zum Fort von Knocke. 3. Ein Brettersteig nach den Vorposten. 4. Ein Verbindungsgraben nach Dixmude. 5. Ein gefährlicher Posten vor Dixmude. 6. Am Zusammenfluss von Yser und Yserkanal. 7. Artilleriebeobachter betrachtet am Periskop die Auswirkung unseres Zerstörungseifers auf die feindlichen Schutzgräben. 8. Schildwache vor den Trümmern von Noordschoote.

9. - Die Befestigung der Front. Die belgische Front ist sehr stark angelegt. Obgleich sie unter überhaupt schweren Verhältnissen ausgebaut wurden, erregen die belgischen Schutzgräben die Bewunderung aller Sachverständigen. Hinter der Front versteckt eine wuchtige Artillerie ihre zahlreichen schussbereiten Geschütze. 1. Laufgraben der zweiten Linie im südlichen Frontteil. 2. Abosungstruppen erreichen die Vorposten durch den Verbindungsgraben. 3. Schweres Geschütz auf Geleisen. 4. Der König besichtigt den Panzerzug. 5. Ein Möiser wird gerichtet. 6. Ein Feldgeschütz im Kasemattenunterstand. 7. Ein Marinegeschütz auf Rädern wird gerichtet.

10. - Das überschwemmte Flandern. Während der Yserschlacht hat die belgische Armee zur zweckmässigeren Verteidigung das zu behauptende Gelände überschwemmt; noch immer deckt die Flut ein Teil der flämischen Küste. Einige Bilder von dem Uberschwemmungsgebiet dessen Anblick einen unbeschreiblichen Eindruck von Verwüstung erregt. 1. Ein Posten im Wasserabschnitt. 2. Ein Brückenkopf. 3. Die Uberschwemmung in Ramsappelle. 4. Die Uberschwemmung im südlichen Frontabschnitt. 5. Brettersteig nach den Vorposten. 6. Gesamtüberblick des Uberschwemmungsgebietes. 7. Ein Vorposten. 8. Der Brettersteig bei dem Schmiede-Posten.

11. - Das zertrümmerte Flandern. Unser herrliches Flandern geht in Trümmer! Ypern mit seinen wunder-vollen Häusern ist nur noch ein Schuttbau. Von Kriegsausbruch an haben die belgischen Kirchen schwer gelitten. Die Kirchen Flanderns wurden systematisch zerstört wie es aus diesen Bildern deutlich hervorgeht. 1. Die Kirche von Sint-Jacobs Kapelle. 2. Die Mutter-Gotteskirche von Nieuwpoort. 3. Die Kirche von Caeskerke. 4. Die Kirche von Ramsappelle. 5. Die Kirche von Noordschoote. 6. Die Kirche von Rennege. 7. Der Friedhof und die Mutter-Gotteskirche von Nieuwpoort; die umwühlten Gräber werden von unseren Soldaten mit frommer Sorgfalt gepflegt.

12. - Das belgische Flugwesen. Seit Kriegsausbruch hat der König stets ein reges Interesse an unseren Flugdiensten genommen. 1. Der König in Unterredung mit einem unserer Lutheliden: Fliegerleutnant Crombez der sich jüngst tapfer benommen hat. 2. Der König überfliegt die feindlichen Stellungen. 3. Ein anderer Luthelid: Fliegerleutnant De Meulemeester. 4. Der König dekoriert die Leutnants Tietry und De Meulemeester; hinter ihnen von rechts nach links die Flieger: Jeter Braun, De Neet, Jan Oleslagers. 5. Der König von Italien und der König der Belgier besuchen ein Flugzentrum: rechts Hauptmann Jacquet, links Fliegerleutnant Tietry. 6. Beobachtungsballon. 7. Wasserflugzeuggeschwader. 8. Start von Artilleriebeobachtern.

13. - Einige belgische Lutheliden. Unsere fünfte Waffe derer hervorragende Organisation wohlbekannt ist zählt viele Lutheliden. 1. und 2. Die Flieger Gilbert (getallen) und Crombez. 3. Leutnant Coomans und Peter Grat de Mees (getallen). 4. Leutnant Willy Coppens. 5. Leutnant Tietry (verwundet und in Gefangenschaft). 6. Hauptmann Jacquet und Leutnant Roum. 7. Ein alter Bekannter: Leutnant Jan Oleslagers. 8. Leutnant Kolim (Mitrailleur) und Leutnant Jenatz (Flugzeugführer) an Bord eines Farman-Flugzeuges, für nächtlichen Bombenangriff gerüstet. 9. Leutnant De Meulemeester.

14. - Unsere Führer und unsere Soldaten. Die zahlreichen militärischen Feierlichkeiten an der Front veranstaltet bezeugen die Sympathie und die Bewunderung der verbundenen Generalstabs für die belgische Armee. 1. Vor einer Truppschau: der König und General Pétain; hinter ihnen die Generale Ruequoy und De Ceuninck. 2. Während der Truppschau. 3. Der König in Unterredung mit General Ruequoy, rechts General De Ceuninck in Gespräche mit Admiral Ronarch und General Roucoul. 4. General Pétain dekoriert die Generale De Ceuninck und Ruequoy. 5. Der König dekoriert Offiziere. 6. Die Glückwünsche des Königs. 7. Ansprache des Königs an die Sieger von den Gefechten bei Kippe. 8. Der König dekoriert Soldaten.

15. - Unsere Führer und unsere Soldaten. General Foch, Oberbefehlshaber der alliierten Armeen an der Westfront, hat lebhaft gewünscht unsere Linien zu besuchen und somit die Sieger der jüngsten Gefechte auszuzeichnen. 1. Der König und General Foch nehmen die Revue ab. 2. Der König geht dem Oberbefehlshaber entgegen. 3. Die belgischen Truppen marschieren vorbei. 4. General Foch dekoriert Generalleutnant Gilliam, Generalstabschef des belgischen Heeres. 5. Der König, General Foch, Generalleutnant Gilliam mit Gefolge unterwegs. 6. General Foch dekoriert Offiziere und Soldaten. In der Mitte General Foch während eines Besuches auf der königlichen Villa in De Panne.

16. - Die königlichen Besuche. Die guten Verhältnisse zwischen der belgischen Armee und den verbundenen Armeen traten deutlich aus den zahlreichen Besuchen des Königs an der französisch, italienischen und englischen Front hervor. 1. Der König, der Präsident der Republik und General Pétain und der französische Front. 2. Der König dekoriert General Fayolle. 3. Der König der Belgier und der König von England. 4. Der König besucht die eroberten Stellungen. 5. Der König und der Feldmarschall Douglas Haig schreiten die Front der Ehrenwache ab. 6 und 7. In den von den Deutschen jüngst geräumten Stellungen. 8. Der König und General Horne. 9 und 10. Der König besucht die Trümmer eines Dorfes. 11. Der König und General Pulteney.

17. - Der Sanitätsdienst. Unser in vollen Kriegen reorganisierter Sanitätsdienst ist einer der meist Vollkommenen unter den Kriegsführungslinien. 1. Ein Verbandsposten: Evakuierung eines Verwundeten. 2. und 3. Ankunft eines Verwundeten im Feldlazarett. 4. Der König von Italien und der König der Belgier besuchen das Spital von Hoogstade unter Leitung von Dr. Willem. 5. Die Frontspitaler. Cabourg. 6. Die Königin begleitet von Dr. Depage besucht das « Ocean » Spital in De Panne. 7. Die Spitaler in der Etappe: in Le Havre: das Laboratorium: Leutnant Dandoy macht eine Analyse und Dr. Duarhin am Mikroskop. 8. Die Sprechstunde von Dr. Rasquin. 10 und 11. In London: das « King Albert » Spital. In der Mitte Dr. Melis, Generalinspektor des Sanitätsdienstes.

18. - Die Ausbildungslager. In diesen Lagern werden die Rekruten der neuen Armee ausgebildet. 1. Kavallerieübung im Lager von Guisnes. 2. Eine Truppschau im Lager von Honfleur. 3. Vorbeimarsch einer Batterie im Lager von Eu. 4. Übungen im Lager von Carentan. 5. Generalleutnant de Selliers de Moranville, Generalinspektor der Armee. 6. Vorbeimarsch im Lager von Parigné-l'Évêque. 7. Übungen im Ausbildungslager für Maschinengewehre in Criel-s-Mer. 8. Manöverkritik durch Generalleutnant Bertrand. 9. Artillerieübungen im Lager von Gravelines. 10. Aufklärungsübungen im Ausbildungslager für Panzermotorwagen. 11 und 12 Lehrstunde im Ausbildungslager für Flieger.

19. - Die Wiederausbildung von Kriegsgeschädigten. Die Militäranstalt für Kriegsgeschädigten und Kriegswaisen in Port-Ville, von der belgischen Regierung in 1915 gegründet, ist eine der ersten Anstalten für Wiederausbildung von Kriegsgeschädigten. Allgemein wird sie angesehen als eine Musteranstalt. 1. Strassenbau von Kriegsgeschädigten ausgeführt. 2. Abteilung für Gartenbau. 3. Die Hilfstuppen der Genie an der Arbeit in der Steingrube der Anstalt. 4. Das Forstwesen. 5. Die Pferde des Pachthofes in der Schwemme. 6. Die Malerwerkstätte: Nachahmung von Holz und Marmor. 7. Die Werkstätte für Dekorationsmalerei. 8. Die Werkstätte für Glasmaler. 9. Die Werkstätte für Maschinenaufsteiler.

20. - Die Intendanturdienste. Die Dienste der bürgerlichen und militärischen Intendantur arbeiten mit äusserster Sorgfalt und nichts wird vernachlässigt damit ihre Tätigkeit einwandfrei sei. 1. Im Intendanturministerium in Sainte-Adresse. Herr Minister E. Vandervelde im Kreise seiner Mitarbeiter. 2. Eine Versorgungsbasis für die Armee im nördlichen Frankreich. 3. Ein Benzindepot für Kraftwagen. 4. Verladung eines der zahlreichen Versorgungszüge die täglich nach die Front fahren. 5 und 6. Aeusseres und Inneres einer Feldbäckerei. 7. Sammlung einer Rindviehherde für die Versorgung des Feldheeres.

21. - Die Kriegsfabriken. Nach der Yserschlacht beschloss die belgische Regierung mehrere Kriegsfabriken zu bauen die nunmehr zur allgemeinen Betriedigung im Betrieb sind und ein bemerkenswertes Vorbild improvisierter Organisation darstellen. 1. Eine Reparaturwerkstätte im Zeughaus für Kraftwagenherstellung. 2. Aufstellung von 105 mm. Schneider-Geschützen im Zeughaus für Herstellung von Artilleriematerial. 3. Die Werkstätte für Munitionsanfertigung: Drehen von Granaten. 4. Stahlguss. 5. Das Stempeln der Granaten. 6. Die Werkstätte für Granatenpointierung. 7. Die Werkstätte für Färbung der Geschosse von sämtlichen Kalibern.

22. - Ansiedlungen für Schulkinder. Die Fürsorge der Regierung für die Flüchtlinge ist dieselbe für Grossen und Kleinen. 1. Ankunft von Kindern in eine Ansiedlung. 2. Die Ansiedlung von Criguetot: die Toilette der Kleinen. 3. Die Ansiedlung von Campeaux: Lehrstunde in den Schuppen. 4. Die Ansiedlung von Yvetot: der Speisesaal. 5. Die Kleinsten von der Ansiedlung von Malaise auf dem Spaziergang. 6. Die Ansiedlung von Saint Paer; die kleinen Spitzenklöpplerinnen an der Arbeit. 7. Die Ansiedlung von Malaise: Lehrstunde in freier Luft während eines Besuches von Frau Henry Carton de Wiart. 8. Die kleinen Buben der Ansiedlung von Yvetot. 9. Die Kinder am Seestrande in Normandien.

23. - Das Hilfswerk. Die C. R. B. und C. N. S. A. besorgen den Lebensunterhalt des besetzten Gebietes. Ihre Einrichter und Führer verdienen den höchsten Dank. 1. In einer Kantine: die Mahlzeit für bedürftige Frauen und Kinder. 2. Die Suppe kommt! 3. Eine Speiseanstalt für Kinder. 4 und 5. Ärztliche Prüfung der Kinder. 6, 7 und 8. In Rotterdam: Verladung von Getreide auf Binnenschiffe die es nach Belgien bringen werden. 9. Ankunft von Suppe und Brot in einem Verteilungslokal. 10. Der Brüsseler « Pôle Nord » in ein Kleidermagazin umwandelt. 11. Ein Arbeitshaus durch Wohltätigkeit für weibliche Personen gegründet.

24. - Einige grosse Figuren. Leider ist es uns unmöglich die Züge wiederzugeben von allen die im besetzten Belgien den Widerstand gegen den Eroberer verkörpert oder im Exil der Regierung mit Rat und Tat geholfen haben. Wir haben hier die Bilder versammelt von den hohen Persönlichkeiten die entweder in Belgien sich für die geistige und körperliche Fürsorge geopfert haben oder im Exil die meist hingebenden Mitarbeiter der Regierung waren. Später wird es uns nicht an Raum mangeln um aller deren würdig zu gedenken die sich während dieses Krieges, dem Dienste des Vaterlandes gewidmet haben.

25. - Das gesandtschaftliche Personal. Die meisten Vertreter verbündeter und neutraler Mächte haben der Regierung von Brüssel nach Antwerpen und später nach Sainte-Adresse-Le Havre gefolgt. Der Gesandte der Vereinigten Staaten Herr Brand Whitlock der in Brüssel geblieben war, wo er der belgischen Bevölkerung die höchstgeschätzten Dienste erwies, ist, nach der Kriegserklärung Amerikas, wieder bei der belgischen Regierung eingetroffen. Der Gesandte von Spanien ist immer noch in Belgien und nimmt einen regen Anteil an dem Versorgungswerk. Man darf sagen dass das exilierte Belgien eine annähernd normale diplomatische Existenz geführt hat.

26. - Der belgische Kongo. Zusammen mit der Verteidigung seiner Kolonie und der Eroberung feindlichen Gebietes hat Belgien nicht nachgelassen das grosse Erbeil des genialen Leopold II auszunützen. Massregeln sind getroffen worden damit der Kongo, dessen Aufschwung von dem Krieg nicht gehemmt wurde, sofort nach der Befreiung des Gebietes wirksam den Wiederaufbau des Landes fördern könne. Für die Lösung dieser Lebensfrage sind der Kolonialminister und seine Mitarbeiter eifrig bemüht. Unsere Bilder zeigen einen einheimischen Markt in Kassongo und ein Posten in Ponthierville.

27. - Das koloniale Streben. Trotz des Krieges führt der Kongo sein normales Leben und seine vor den Feindseligkeiten unternommene Reorganisation geht ungestört ihren Gang. 1. Der Staatsposten in Lula: überschattete Gärten und Kaffeebäume. 2. Dorf und Wohnsitz eines einheimischen Häuptlings in den Bangalas (Lisala). 3. In Elisabethville: die Elisabethallee und der Wohnsitz der Staatsinspektoren. 4. Schafherden in Katentania (Katanga); Tausende von Tieren wurden seit 1914 eingeführt. 5. Der industrielle und wirtschaftliche Aufschwung Kongos: diese Anstalten einer belgischen Gesellschaft in Elisabethville (Katanga) gestatten es sich eine Vorstellung von der geleisteten Arbeit zu machen.

28. - Der koloniale Aufschwung. Während unsere Truppen sich glänzend bei der Eroberung Deutsch-Ostafrikas beteiligten, hat der koloniale Aufschwung nicht abgenommen: unsere Bilder beweisen dieses deutlich. 1. Die Eisenbahn der grossen afrikanischen Seen bei dem Bahnhof von Ponthierville. 2. Die Arbeit in den Goldminen von Kilo (Ituri). 3. Bau einer Eisenbahn. 4. 160 mm Geschütze für die Verteidigung Albertvilles. 5. Patrouille auf dem Tanganikasee: das gleitende Torpedoboot « Netta ». 6. Der « Baron Dhanis » in Afrika während des Krieges gebaut, dient als Transportschiff auf dem Tanganikasee. 7. Der « Ville de Bruxelles » in Isangi (Mündung des Lomanis).

29. - Die Eroberung Deutsch-Ostafrikas. In Afrika wie in Europa hat Deutschland den Krieg angefangen mit, am 22 August 1914 schon, unsere Truppen, im belgischen Hafen von Lukua (Tanganikasee) anzugreifen. Schlecht ist es ihm bekommen denn allmählich wurden ihm sämtliche seiner ausgedehnten Gebiete, von einem nicht zu berechnenden Wert, von den belgischen und englischen Truppen abgefasst. Der Kriegskarte unserer Feinde gegenüber werden die Alliierten später die Kolonialkarte stellen, und diese ist ihnen durchaus günstig. Die Leitern dieser Operationen sollen um ihre bewundernswerten Beschlusskraft gebührend werden.

30. - Der Krieg in Afrika. Im August 1914 war Belgien gar nicht zum Krieg in Afrika gerüstet. Es war es erst im März 1916. Zu diesem Zeitpunkt gingen unsere Truppen, gemeinsam mit den englischen Streitkräften, zur Offensive und zur Verfolgung des Feindes über. 1. Ein Saint-Chamoud-Geschütz fährt in die Stellung. 2. Eine Munitionskolonie. 3. Zwei Parallelbrücken von den schwarzen Pioniertruppen gebaut. 4. Eine Pionierbrücke. 5. Maschinengewehrabteilung im Gebüsch. 6. Trägerkolonne bei Mahenge. 7. Vorhut bei Dodoma. 8. Ein fliegender Funkenposten. 9. Eines der Wasserflugzeuge von dem Tanganikasee.

31. - Der Krieg in Afrika. Unsere Truppen haben sich an hartnäckigen Kämpfen beteiligt. Aus jedem Kampf kamen sie siegreich hervor und, zusammen mit der englischen Armee, haben sie die Eroberung von ganz Deutsch-Ostafrika vollendet. 1. Radfahrerkompanie als Vorhut. 2. Patrouillierende schwarze Soldaten. 3. und 4. Schwarze Schütze und Maschinengewehre in Wirkung während des Gefechtes von Lulaguru. 5. Auf Erkundung. 6. Eine Mörserbatterie in Wirkung während der Gefechte von Itaga. 7. Ein leichtes Geschütz in Wirkung im Kilosagebiet. 8. Radfahrer-Patrouille auf Erkundung. 9. Batterie von 70 mm. Saint-Chamoud-Geschütze in Wirkung bei Mahenge.

32. - Die belgische Besetzung. An der Eroberung Deutsch-Ostafrikas, eines wertvollen Faustpfandes für die Alliierten, haben die belgischen Truppen einen glänzenden Anteil genommen. 1 und 2. Die Forts von Mahenge und Kigali von unseren Truppen besetzt. 3. Der Kaiserhof in Tabora durch die Belgier in ein Spital für Europäer umgewandelt. 4. Truppschau des XIII belgischen Kolonialbataillons im Kilosagebiet. 5. Eine Abteilung. 6. Eine Truppschau in Kamwezi. 7. Nach der Eroberung von D. O. A.: die belgische Abordnung des Okkupationskorps empfängt in Tabora der deutschen Kriegshauptstadt. General Malfeyt, königlichen Kommissar für die besetzten Gebiete.



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